

Rabat backs Egypt's return to league

CAIRO (R) — Moroccan Prime Minister Azeddine Laraki said after meeting Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak Sunday that Rabat supported Cairo's return to the Arab League. Laraki, in Cairo, at the head of a delegation for economic cooperation talks, also gave Mubarak a letter from King Hassan. Laraki said some Arab leaders wanted to discuss Egypt's readmission to the league during the June 7 summit in Algiers. "If the issue of Egypt's return to the Arab League comes up at the Algiers summit, Morocco will defend the return of Egypt," he told reporters after a one-hour meeting and a working lunch with Mubarak. Egypt and Morocco signed an agreement Saturday to expand economic and cultural cooperation. Talks on improving links will continue Monday. Mubarak also received a letter Sunday from Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayay, president of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

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King receives cables of congratulations

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday received cables of congratulations on the occasion of Independence Day from U.S. President Ronald Reagan and the presidents of Vietnam, Bolivia, Togo and Malta as well as the governor-general of Canada.

Fahd meets Walters

RIYADH (R) — U.S. envoy Vernon Walters held talks Sunday with Saudi Arabia's King Fahd in Jeddah on the ninth leg of a Middle East tour. Walters, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, is visiting the region to exchange ideas on the 7½-year-old Gulf war and other issues. The Saudi Press Agency said he also met Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal for talks on "matters of mutual concern and the situation in the Middle East."

Gandhi to visit Syria, address U.N.

NEW DELHI (AP) — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi will visit Syria, West Germany, the United States and Hungary on a tour beginning next Saturday, a government official said Sunday. The official said Gandhi would hold talks June 5-6 in Damascus with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad on the Iran-Iraq war and the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories. Gandhi is to hold talks June 7-8 in West Germany with Chancellor Helmut Kohl and other government officials. While in the United States, the prime minister is to address the U.N. General Assembly special session on disarmament June 9, the official said. He said Gandhi would pay a state visit to Hungary before returning to New Delhi June 11.

Junblatt holds talks in Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — Walid Junblatt, leader of Lebanon's Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), held talks Sunday with the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported. Diplomatic sources said the talks covered developments in Lebanon. Junblatt, who is also public works minister, also held talks with Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah who had invited him to Kuwait.

Mosques attacked in northern Greece

KOMOTINI, Greece (AP) — A powerful bomb exploded in a mosque early Sunday, damaging its interior and shattering windows of neighbouring buildings but causing no injuries, police in this northern town said. Someone tossed a gasoline bomb into another mosque in the area 15 minutes later, sparking a fire that was immediately extinguished. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attacks. Komotini, a town in the province of Thrace, has a population of 35,000, half of whom are Muslims.

Israel names new envoy to Egypt

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's foreign ministry Sunday nominated Shimon Shamir, a scholar of modern Middle East history, to be ambassador to Egypt, a ministry spokesman said. Shamir, 49, who heads an academic mission in Egypt, must face a vote by Israel's cabinet before taking his post, said the spokesman. If he is approved Shamir will replace Moshe Sasson, who has completed a five-year term, the spokesman said.

PLO waiting for Syria to set date for talks

BAGHDAD (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is waiting for Syria to arrange talks on improving their relations, an official said Sunday. After President Hafez Al Assad and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat held talks in Damascus in April, PLO officials said their meeting signalled the end of a five-year-old rift between Syria and the PLO.

Gorbachev, Reagan open Moscow summit

Combined agency dispatches

MOSCOW — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan Sunday began a five-day Kremlin summit with a pledge to work for better relations and immediately held talks for just over an hour.

Senior American officials described the talks as cordial and business-like and Reagan emerged with a sense of progress. The two leaders are scheduled to hold three more rounds of talks in the next four days on East-West detente and various other issues as well as on regional conflicts, among which the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Iran-Iraq war are expected to figure high. Not long after arriving by motorcade from Vnukovo airport outside Moscow, Reagan and his wife, Nancy, walked across a long red carpet to the centre of a gilded reception room in St.

George's Hall, where their paths crossed with Gorbachev and his wife, Raisa.

Gorbachev and Reagan reminisced briefly about earlier summits in Geneva, Reykjavik, Iceland and Washington, while their wives looked on. The welcoming ceremony was broadcast live by Soviet and American television. Reagan, who once called the Soviet Union an "evil empire," is the first U.S. leader in 14 years to set foot on Soviet soil. He was greeted at the airport by Soviet President Andrei Gromyko, for years the foreign minister, and

and the president's first visit to the Soviet Union — Gorbachev added wryly:

"Aware of your fondness for Russian proverbs, let me add another one to your collection... 'better to see something once than to hear about it a hundred times'."

Reagan had his own proverb for Gorbachev.

Speaking of the gradual progress in superpower relations over recent years, and noting that differences remain, Reagan, speaking first in Russian, told Gorbachev: "It was born. It wasn't rushed."

"Mr. General Secretary, we did not rush. We have taken our work step by step, and I have come here to continue that work. We both know it will not be easy."

Both Reagan and Gorbachev made proud reference to the intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) treaty banning medium-range missiles which they signed

at their last summit in Washington last December. They are to ratify it formally Wednesday as one of the few concrete diplomatic achievements expected.

Both leaders also said they hoped to make progress on a much more sweeping treaty that would cut strategic nuclear arsenals in half, although much more work remains to be done on the pact. Then the two leaders began formal talks.

White House Chief of Staff Howard Baker, speaking from Moscow on U.S. television, said the president was pleased with the way the first session with the Soviet leader went.

"They spoke frankly. They spoke directly. And they spoke with a great deal of energy on a great many subjects," Baker said. "It's going to be a good summit."

Baker said there were no surprises in the meeting, which lasted one hour 11 minutes. He

(Continued on page 5)

Six Palestinians shot and wounded

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers shot and wounded six Palestinians in clashes in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Sunday, and about 60 Palestinians were treated for tear-gas and rubber-bullet injuries, doctors said.

In the West Bank, clashes resumed for about 70,000 Palestinian junior high school students in the second stage of the Israeli occupation authorities' plan to reopen 1,200 schools shut nearly four months ago in the Palestinian uprising.

Officials reported no major trouble at the schools attended by students between the ages of 12 and 15.

But a militant Jewish West Bank settler said her car was

stoned by about 150 school girls near the town of Qalqilya, and that she had to fire in the air before the army "rescued" her.

The reopening of the schools came after the clandestine leaders of the uprising urged students to return to classes in a leaflet issued earlier this month.

A new poll, meanwhile, showed Israelis are slightly less confident about their Zionist state's future but more willing than their political leaders to hold peace talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"We find that two-thirds of Israelis under certain conditions were willing to hold a dialogue with the PLO," polling expert Yossi Alpher said on Israeli army radio. "There is no Zionist party

that holds such a position."

In the West Bank village of Bazzariya near Nablus, an army officer shot and wounded a villager after the man allegedly attacked him with a cement block at a roadblock set up by protesters, Israeli Radio said.

The worst violence erupted Sunday in the isolated West Bank village of Jaba north of Nablus. Doctors at Nablus' Itihad hospital said four Palestinians, ranging in age from 18 to 20, were shot in their limbs after the army raided the village.

The injuries in the Gaza Strip came during clashes Saturday night and Sunday morning, according to officials at Gaza's Shifa hospital where the casualties were treated.



Zia ul Haq
Zia disbands parliament

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — President Mohammad Zia ul Haq Sunday dissolved the National Assembly, removed Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo and disbanded his cabinet, accusing the lawmakers of failure in performing their tasks.

Zia made the announcement at a hurriedly called news conference minutes after Junejo had returned home from a tour of China, South Korea and the Philippines.

The action could plunge the country into a new political crisis, as Junejo was heading the first civilian cabinet after eight years of martial law which Zia imposed in July 5, 1977.

The National Assembly and Junejo cabinet was to last until 1990 to complete its full term.

Zia, who cancelled a visit to China due to begin Monday, said he was dissolving the National Assembly because it had failed to achieve its objective — the country's Islamisation.

"The National Assembly has failed to realise the objective for which it was elected," Zia said.

"The prime minister has ceased to be the prime minister from today (Sunday) because the National Assembly has been dissolved," he said.

Zia and Junejo had generally got on well, but political observers had started sensing a divergence of views on domestic policy issues, particularly the role which political parties should play in the country. Zia is opposed to give the political party any immediate role, but Junejo not only disagreed with it, but formed his own Pakistan Muslim League Party two years ago.

Other opposition political parties who had boycotted the December 1984 election for the National Assembly became active following the formation of Junejo's party.

Zia said the decision regarding the status of four provincial (state) legislatures of Punjab, Sind, Baluchistan and North West Frontier Province, would be announced Monday.

He said the chief election commissioner would announce the election dates for the new National Assembly according to the provisions of the constitution of Pakistan.

"My decision is consistent with the constitution and a step towards strengthening and consolidating democracy," Zia said.

"I was forced by the dictates of my conscience to take these measures as the purpose for which the referendum was held and that is Islamisation, has not been fulfilled," he said.

Syrians patrol south Beirut but no word on hostages

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Thousands of Syrian troops patrolled in Beirut's suburbs Sunday to prevent renewed Shi'ite militia violence, but there was no news about foreign hostages thought to be held there.

The Syrians manned rooftop observation posts and roadside checkpoints as shops opened for the first time in three weeks and residents cleared rubble from the battle-scarred streets.

Gutted cars, empty cartridge

cases and broken glass littered many roads. Sandbags were piled up at street corners which had been bitterly contested during the militia battles.

Political sources quoted by Reuters in Beirut and by the AP in Damascus said the occupation of the suburbs was aimed at ending fighting between the Iranian-backed Hizbollah and pro-Syrian Amal militias and not at resolving the issue of the foreign hostages.

Persistent reports have said many of up to 18 Westerners missing and believed kidnapped in Lebanon by pro-Iranian militants were detained in the lawless suburbs, which had been beyond government control for four years.

Syrian Information Minister Mohammad Salman said Saturday that Damascus, which ordered in its army Friday, would withdraw its troops as soon as order was restored, possibly within days.

"The announcement by Salman was a message to the Americans and (rightist) hardliners that Syria did not enter the suburbs to solve the issue of the hostages," a pro-Syrian source told Reuters.

"The Syrian aim was to end the fighting. They did this and they don't want the world to think they went in to solve all the other problems for free."

A senior Shi'ite cleric meanwhile renewed a pledge to work for the release of the captives.

"Although I possess no great means of pressure, I shall exert continuous efforts to resolve the question of the hostages," said Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah, spiritual guide of Hizbollah.

"I am viewing the hostages' issue from both humanitarian and Islamic standpoints. It is hurting



Syrian soldiers who deployed in south Beirut Saturday play with Lebanese children in the slum district.

(Continued on page 5)

Catalans vote in regional polls seen as national test

MADRID (R) — Spain's wealthiest region of Catalonia voted Sunday to choose a regional parliament in a tough mid-term election test for the nationally-ruling Socialist Party, slipping in popularity ratings.

With conservative nationalist Jordi Pujol widely expected to pick up a third term as regional president, analysts were closely monitoring the Catalan verdict as a pointer for general elections due in 1990.

Home to a sixth of the national population, Catalonia is the most industrialised region of Spain and last year took 32.7 per cent of all foreign investment.

The largest issue was not who would win — opinion polls forecast little change from Pujol's

absolute majority — but how the Socialists would fare and the level of turnout among the 4.5 million eligible voters.

In the last elections, 36 per cent abstained, mostly left-wing voters, and Pujol's Convergencia i Union (CIU) gained a surprise landslide victory. It picked up 46.6 per cent of the vote and boosted its majority in the 135-seat parliament to 72 seats from an outgoing 43.

While casting their votes, Socialist candidate Raimon Obiols and Jorge Fernandez of the right-wing Popular Alliance (AP) both reiterated their concern about abstention which they feel could most damage progressive parties.

But after five hours, turnout

was said to be about 27 per cent, slightly higher than previous years.

About 20,000 police were on duty to guard against possible violence in the triangular shaped region of northeast Spain, but no incidents were reported in the morning.

Its capital Barcelona, venue of the 1992 Olympics, has become a target for Basque guerrillas and the Catalan separatist group Terra Lliure (free land) has stepped up bomb attacks in recent months.

Surveys have indicated the CIU will retain or increase its share of the vote, while the Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE) could drop to around 28 per cent from 30 per cent.

Pujol, 57 and a fervent nationalist, has campaigned under the slogan "Tot per Catalunya" (everything for Catalonia).

A former banker, he became Catalonia's first president since the 1936-39 civil war when he was elected in 1980, a year after the region was re-granted autonomy, abolished under the 40-year dictatorship of General Francisco Franco.

On a national basis, opinion polls have shown a drop in popularity for Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez since the PSOE retained an absolute majority in a 1986 general election.

The Catalan test could be even more crucial for Gonzalez's right-wing and centrist opponents

Tabbaa: U.S. seminars were successful

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Hamed Tabbaa said Sunday that the two seminars on investment in and trade with Jordan held in two American cities helped provide technical information to some Jordanian industries and enabled some Jordanian businessmen to sign export contracts with American importers. In an interview with Jordan Television, Tabbaa, who was among the delegation which attended the seminars in Pittsburgh and Atlanta under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, said the delegation's mission to the U.S. was successful and that it helped shed light on Jordan's potentials, particularly in light of the political stability in the Kingdom under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein. He added that similar future trips would help provide information on Jordan's potential in the field of investment.



Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Sunday confers with Saudi Fuad for Development Deputy Chairman Mohammad Saqir (Petra photo)

Jordan, Saudi fund discuss cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) Deputy Chairman Mohammad Saqir Sunday discussed Jordan-SFD cooperation in carrying out development projects in the Kingdom. The meeting was attended by Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Fayez Tarawneh and Saudi Ambassador to Jordan Mohammad Al Issa.

Saqir and Public Works and Housing Minister Shafiq Zaidan reviewed cooperation in the field of public works. They discussed projects undertaken by the Ministry of Public Works and prospects for SFD financing for

later met with Saqir and discussed relations between the SFD and Jordan and Jordanian-Saudi relations in general.

Saqir and Public Works and Housing Minister Shafiq Zaidan reviewed cooperation in the field of public works. They discussed projects undertaken by the Ministry of Public Works and prospects for SFD financing for

(Continued on page 5)

Christian Peace Conference pledges Middle East efforts

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation representing the Prague-based Christian Peace Conference (CPC) Sunday pledged support for Jordan's call for an international peace conference on the Middle East and said that the movement would work towards holding a conference in Amman under the theme "Muslims and Christians together on the march for peace."

At a meeting with Information Minister Hani Khasawneh, the delegation voiced appreciation of His Majesty King Hussein and his efforts to serve the cause of world peace.

Khasawneh briefed the delegation on Jordan's position on the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question.

The minister said Jordan would not be a substitute for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) or the Palestinian people in any international peace conference but would continue to defend the just cause of the Palestinian people.

Khasawneh said Jordan was ready to join in any peace process if that process was achieved in accordance with Jordan's perception of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and if the concerned Arab parties agreed to the idea.

(Continued on page 5)

Iraq renews call on Iran to make peace

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein said that Iranian forces had lost the strength they showed earlier in the 7½-year Gulf war and recent Iraqi success proved that Baghdad's forces were superior.

The president, decorating commanders from his own guards and the Third Army Corps who recaptured an occupied slice of Iraq east of the southern Iraqi city of Basra Wednesday, said Saturday it was time for Iran to make peace.

Speaking about that victory and Iran's loss of Iraq's Fao Peninsula in April, he said Iranian forces were not as strong and were not fighting in the same way they did in 1986.

He said the two operations demonstrated that Iraq's infantry, artillery, navy and engineering units were superior to Iran's on top of Baghdad's long-standing strength in armour and in the air.

"The Iranian rulers have to realise that the basic element of steadfastness of their forces is missing because Iraq is on the side of justice while they harbour wicked and aggressive intentions," he said.

Urging Tehran to stop fighting and withdraw from Iraqi territory, he said: "As time passes, the situation in Iran will deteriorate more and more... death will increase but the path of peace is open before them."

He said Iraq's armed forces were at the highest state of readiness to recapture every piece of occupied Iraqi territory.

Iranian forces still hold areas of mountainous northern Iraq, the northeastern Iraqi Kurdish-populated town of Halahja and some of the oil-rich Majnoon Islands in southeast Iraq.

Carrington describes NATO row as volcano

FUNCHAL, Madeira (Agencies) — Warning of a smouldering volcano inside the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) alliance, Secretary General Lord Carrington said Sunday the United States and its European allies must strike a better balance over sharing military costs and responsibilities.

Addressing the North Atlantic Assembly of NATO parliamentarians, Carrington backed its call for steps to strengthen Western Europe's contribution to the 16-nation Atlantic alliance.

Referring to recent charges by the U.S. Congress that the European allies are not doing enough for their own defence, Carrington said the issue "like a volcano... smoulders continuously."

Calling for a better equilibrium between the Europeans and the United States, Carrington said the current debate must not become "an argument about who does what."

He called for greater defence

Israel's discrimination increases tensions at West Bank, Gaza universities, schools

This is the fourth part of a six part series in which the exercise of academic freedoms in Palestinian universities of the occupied Arab territories are discussed. This study was presented to the UNESCO at its hundred and twenty-seventh session by Father Edouard Bone.

Discrimination

Taxes

Article 7 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaims equality for all before the law and entitlement to equal protection of the law.

The Universities of Gaza and the West Bank complain of the exorbitant taxes and customs duties which they have to pay for the importation of cultural, educational and scientific materials, which are normally exempt from tax.

The tax system is not only extremely burdensome but infinitely complex and constantly under review, a twofold situation which affects budgets and unbalances them. Tax levied on books (VAT and the 'Peace for Galilee' Tax) amounts to 17 per cent. On scientific equipment, the rate is frequently 25 per cent and has sometimes exceeded the value of the equipment, even in the case of donations. It would have cost less for a particular university to buy the computers donated to it than receive them as a present.

Hebron Polytechnic informed the Rapporteur of the particular case of equipment donated by the Federal Republic of Germany. This was held up for 14 months (December 1985 to March 1987) by the customs authorities, it was finally delivered after persistent representations, repeated inspections, etc., but only on payment of a tax of \$15,000. Meanwhile the utilisation and maintenance handbooks had disappeared...

The settlers

On this subject the Rapporteur can only comment on the basis of indirect testimony, but the various sources are surprisingly convergent. The number of settlers on the West Bank and in Gaza has increased considerably over the last 15 years.

It is said that by 1985, 40 to 52 per cent of the West Bank territory had already been taken over by the military authorities, either for immediate use or for future settlements. Many disputes are reported. The British land registry for Palestine was very inadequate, with the title deeds often non-existent or based on common law.

When a piece of land is declared to be state property, what way is there of disproving it? The actual expropriation is denied by the owner, who frequently refuses compensation because he will not recognise the right of the occupier to purchase his land.

The areas settled are no longer confined solely to the valley of the Jordan, but include the more urbanised areas of Nablus, Ramallah, Jerusalem and Hebron; there is daily contact with the Palestinian population, particularly the university population, which sometimes leads to explosive situations. Clashes occur frequently, in connection with various demonstrations, celebrations of anniversaries and the granting or refusal of building

permits, etc.

The report of the KARP Commission acknowledges "the odious atmosphere of the relations between the Israeli residents of West Bank and the local population" and refers to "the vicious circle in which incidents are not investigated for want of any relevant complaint being lodged, and complaints are not lodged for want of an appropriate inquiry."

This problem undoubtedly lies far beyond the scope of the inquiry on academic freedom which I was asked to conduct. The fact cannot be overlooked, however, that the relations fraught with resentment and fear between students and settlers are often the cause of incidents which will finally degenerate to a point where academic freedom is jeopardised by the profound disorganisation of the university.

First-hand observers have unfailingly and publicly voiced their grave concern on this matter. A very large number of incidents and regrettable cases of violence are regularly to be deplored at the universities on account of the inevitably difficult relations between settlers and students.

There seems no way of preventing the Palestinian students from considering the settlers as the agents of the annexational designs of the occupying power. Some people spoke of "new Jewish settlements that have not been integrated into the landscape and are architecturally provocative. What can be done to prevent the settlers from acquiring a feeling of insecurity in respect of young students whom they regard as impeding, if not dangerously hostile to, their recent settlement in the area?"

The slightest incident (administrative harassment, identity check, searching of premises, arrest...) can then fire the powder magazine, with the inevitable violent consequences. One might well ask whether Israeli policy in this respect should not be systematically reviewed if it is honestly desired to guarantee peace on the West Bank and in Gaza.

The academic standard of the Palestinian universities

Criteria

In a recent study by the Institut Universitaire du Développement in Geneva, D. Oliva and M. Rod raised the question of the academic standard of the Palestinian universities and the adverse effects of occupation. In point of fact, criticism is not infrequently levelled at the standard of teaching provided and research conducted in these establishments. These are universities set up on private initiative; they are as yet young, and are developing in particularly difficult circumstances, the objective weight of which has been referred to above.

The negative effects of occupation cannot be overlooked. What has already been said about the constraints with regard to the

recruitment of teachers, academic freedoms, censorship, problems of equipment, the closures and the many incidents marking the life of these universities, arrests, deportations, etc., cannot fail to have an adverse effect on the quality of the work and the academic performance, however devoted, of university teachers and students alike. Incidentally, difficulties are not always necessarily an impediment; they can act as a stimulus, as certain rectors and professors have pointed out.

On various occasions the Rapporteur heard Israeli representatives speak unflatteringly of the academic standard of the Palestinian universities. The universities are accused of extreme politicisation, which detracts from concentration on one's studies.

It was stated more than once that they aim, or are at least forced (under pressure from student councils or certain benefactors) to accept students who are intellectually unsuitable but have strong political leanings; and it was argued that such practices would 'obviously' account for the poor academic standing of the universities, in addition to their being ill-equipped, devoid of any research activity and poorly considered throughout the academic world in Israel and abroad.

I was not able to corroborate the details of this severe judgement. Undoubtedly more time would have been required in order to establish further contact with deans, teachers, researchers and students at all levels, in order to check all aspects of the problem.

A knowledge of Arabic would have made my investigation easier. Furthermore, I visited certain campuses at an unfavourable time in the academic year: the summer vacation at Gaza, and during the closure by military order of Birzeit. I have had to make do with the few indications here noted dispassionately, without claiming to pass a final or even a very qualified judgement. As it is, this judgement is far from being gloomy. I had the opportunity of expressing it to the Israelis whom I spoke with, who frequently showed their surprise at it.

The Tawjihi examination

As said above, the Rapporteur must therefore confine himself here to passing a non-final judgement. In order to assess the academic standards of the establishments, a yardstick is required. It can be chosen in various ways. There is considerable competition for admission to the universities in the occupied territories.

For the 8,000 to 10,000 prospective candidates, all the establishments combined can provide only some 2,500 places for first-year students. Admission is largely based on the result obtained in the Tawjihi examination: A mark of 75 per cent is usually required for admission to the Faculty of Arts and 70 per cent for admission to the Faculty of Science.

The National University of Al Najah requires 72 per cent to 90 per cent, depending on the facul-



Palestinian students

ty: 72 per cent for Education, 76 per cent for Arts, 77 per cent for Economics, 80 per cent for Science and 90 per cent for Engineering. The Islamic University of Gaza stipulates a slightly lower entrance requirement (60 per cent).

I was informed that the requirement of a pass in the Tawjihi was rigorously enforced. In three establishments I was told that an exception was made, of the order of 1 per cent to 2 per cent for candidates invoking dramatic social situations such as arrest or detention which had prevented them from sitting the Tawjihi examination.

In all instances an academic committee was required to assess the intellectual worth of the students, and in any case the end-of-year examination would eliminate any unsuccessful students admitted through this special procedure.

Teachers and libraries

It is difficult to assess the academic standard of the teaching staff. Although statistics are not particularly instructive in such matters, various data which I attempted to analyse and compare provide at least some idea of the qualifications of the teaching staff.

The table below indicates the number of teachers by university and category of diploma, and the

size of the libraries in the five Palestinian universities:

University	Dedicate	Master's Degree	Bachelor's Degree	No. of Volumes
Birzeit	93	79	42	100,000
Al Najah	87	81	57	95,000
Bethlehem	29	49	42	30,000
Hebron	18	24	6	35,000
Gaza	44	41	53	25,000

What is perhaps more significant is the fact that several of the universities belong to the Association of Arab Universities and the International Association of Universities or the International Federation of Catholic Universities, and that the diplomas they award are recognised by a number of universities in Europe and the United States. Specific cooperation has been developed between the College of Science and Technology of Abu Dis and the University of Salford in the United Kingdom, and the degree of M.Sc. is common to the two establishments.

The Abu Dis diplomas are accepted by the Hebrew University and the Weizmann Institute. This is hardly surprising when one takes into account the fact that this establishment requires a 70 per cent pass-mark in the end-of-year examinations. The teacher-student ratio is particularly high (1/6), but is even

higher at El Bireh (1/5). With regard to facilities (labor-

atories, libraries, etc.), the situation varies from one institution to another: it probably reflects the nature of the individual sponsorship, as well as the kind of courses provided. The Rapporteur was favourably impressed by the development of informatics and the computer facilities in various establishments, particularly at Al Najah, Abu Dis and Hebron: the development of biochemistry laboratories; and the standard of the library at Al Najah, which can devote \$300,000 annually to its upkeep and management. It is most surprising to find there a complete collection of Chemical Abstracts.

Academic perseverance It is impressive to learn that despite closures, roadblocks and detentions, the university administration is intensifying its efforts — sometimes at great cost and going to great trouble — to maintain the whole range of courses

and programmes. Semesters interrupted by closures are extended for several weeks or even months, and weekly timetable have become more concentrated in order to make up for lost time.

For example at Al Najah, the first semester of 1986-1987, which was prevented from beginning until October 18, 1986, had not yet come to an end on March 11, 1987; and the academic year itself, 1986-1987, was to be extended until the end of September 1987. Classes are organised outside campuses banned to students. The possibility was even envisaged of providing tuition in prison for students under detention; but the steps taken were halted in 1983 by order of the military authorities and have not yet been resumed, despite representations by the Red Cross, as authorization was refused by the director-general of the Ministry of Justice "because of multiple security risks".

The Rapporteur heard the testimony of visiting American professors and Israelis who were members of the Knesset, who confirmed the serious-mindedness and academic performance of the Palestinian students, and the intellectual vitality of the establishments concerned. It is quite common to learn of a relatively high number of graduates from Palestinian universities successfully working on a Ph.D or a

Master's Degree in foreign universities, particularly in the United States.

At the same time, one cannot overlook the admission by a university administrator that the difficulties of all kinds encountered in the operation of the universities (particularly the reduction in qualified personnel, the shortage of certain types of equipment, the untimely closures and other obstacles to teaching) cannot fail to lower academic standards.

This is a grievous reality which it is hard to acknowledge frankly, and which hangs threateningly over the future.

The scanty resources of certain laboratories are said to force teaching to be too exclusively theoretical. Research is undoubtedly less than might be expected of establishments of this size under normal circumstances. Yet in spite of the difficulties encountered in renewing intellectual life, the restrictions imposed on the movement of persons, very limited resources and the numerous incidents which disturb academic life, objective external observers nevertheless point to a number of valuable publications and internationally recognised research work. The Abu Dis College has displayed its ingenuity in a very remarkable choice of community service-oriented projects (food technology, pisciculture, etc.).

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

23:00 News Summary

23:05 Evening Show Continued

24:00 Close Down

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Karan

15:50 Programme review

16:00 Cartoons

16:40 Al Manhal (children's educational programme)

17:15 Cartoons

17:55 Educational programme

18:15 Local series

19:10 Programme review

19:40 News in Arabic

20:00 News in Arabic

20:30 Arabic series

21:55 Arabic play

23:00 News Summary in Arabic

23:10 Arabic play continued

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Un Cateau Au Soleil

19:00 News in French

19:15 Weekly Sport magazine

19:30 News in Hebrew

20:00 News in Arabic

20:30 Perfect Strangers

21:10 News in English

21:30 News in English

22:20 Feature film: "Massacre at Fort Hohman"

RADIO JORDAN

555 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM

& partly on 95.60 KHz. SW

Tel. 72411-19

07:00 Light Music

07:30 Newsdesk

08:00 Morning Show

10:00 News Summary

10:05 Just a Minute

11:00 Good Vibrations

11:30 Readings

12:00 News Summary

12:05 Pop Session

13:00 News Summary

13:05 Pop Session Contd.

14:00 News Bulletin

14:30 Special Feature

15:00 Concert Hour

16:00 News Summary

16:05 Instrumentals

16:30 Old Favourites

17:00 Young Sound

17:30 Pop Session

18:00 News Summary

18:05 Sports Roundup

18:30 Music

19:00 News Desk

19:30 Date with a Star

20:00 Evening Show

21:00 News Summary

21:05 Evening Show Contd.

22:00 News Summary

22:05 Evening Show Continued

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

* Permanent book exhibition, at Tower Building, Jabal Amman, 3rd Circle.

* Plastic art exhibition by Ghada Dahdala at Petra Art Gallery.

* An exhibition about flower arrangement by Nafela Adnan Masarwa at the French Cultural Centre.

* A permanent exhibition of plastic art by 27 Arab artists at the Plaza Hotel.

* Folklore exhibition at Hawwarah Community College.

* An art exhibition by Lebanese artist Mahmoud Safa at Alia Art Gallery.

* Two exhibitions at the Goethe institute: one is about the development of typetting and mass printing and the other is about German Woodcuts.

* A painting exhibition by Suha Shoman at the Royal Cultural Centre.

LECTURES

* A lecture by Dr. Frank Kouchy entitled "Archaeology in Jordan" at the Friends of Archaeology premises at 1900.

FILMS

* A film entitled: "Poulet Au Vinaigre" at the French Cultural Centre at 2000.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre . Tel. 6610267

American Centre . Tel. 644371

British Council . 6361478

French Cultural Centre . 637009

Goethe Institute . 641993

Soviet Cultural Centre . 644203

Spanish Cultural Centre . 636049

Turkish Cultural Centre . 639777

Yahya Arts Centre . 645195

Hussein Youth City . 6671816

Y.W.C.A. . 641793

MUSEUMS

* "Children's Heritage and Science Museum" Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.

Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.

The Amman Lions Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Regency Palace Hotel, 730 p.m.

Lions Philadelphi Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7:30 p.m.

Philadelphi Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

Royal Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2:00 p.m.

Royal Automobile Club. Jabal Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 816534, 817534.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 624394.

Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Lwailidh. Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, Tel. 661757.

Terraviva Church (Roman Catholic), Jabal Lwailidh, mass in Italian language, meet every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 623366.

Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, Tel. 623341.

Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, Tel. 623383, chaplain's residence tel. 601359.

Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 773261.

St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, Tel. 771751.

Amman International Church (Interdenominational) meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeikani, Tel. 677534.

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

15:35 Kuwait (KU)

01:30 Paris (FR)

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. 681 52005, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

10:15 Agaba (RJ)

10:20 Larnaca (RJ)

10:30 Cairo (RJ)

10:30 Damascus (RJ)

10:30 Muscat, Bahrain (RJ)

10:40 Sana'a, Jeddah (RJ)

10:55 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)

11:45 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)

16:40 Helsinki (RJ)

17:45 Cairo (RJ)

18:30 New York, Vienna (RJ)

18:55 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)

19:45 Bangkok (RJ)

09:55 Baghdad (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

10:20 Sana'a (LH)

10:35 Cairo (MS)

13:00 Istanbul, Ankara (TK)

13:30 Muscat, Bahrain (GF)

14:35 Kuwait (KU)

20:15 Beirut (ME)

06:30 Baghdad (AF)

DEPARTURES

ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

08:00 Agaba (RJ)

12:15 Vienna, New York (RJ)

12:45 Vienna, Chicago, Los Angeles (RJ)

13:15 Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ)

13:30 Cairo (RJ)

20:30 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)

20:55 Baghdad (RJ)

21:00 Jeddah (RJ)

21:15 Cairo (RJ)

21:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

AACO to boycott airlines which use Qalandia airport

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab Air Carriers Organisation (AACO) General Assembly has decided to boycott all world airlines which use Qalandia Airport in Jerusalem, occupied in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, AACO Secretary General Adli Dajani announced Sunday.

The decision was taken following an Israeli announcement that the Qalandia airport will be used as a civilian airport benefiting the occupation authorities, according to Dajani, who is back from the AACO meetings which was concluded in Damascus last week.

Dajani, addressing journalists at the AACO headquarters in Amman, reviewed recommendations and resolutions passed at the Damascus meeting.

He said that the AACO's general assembly condemned last month's hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner, and hijacking of planes in general.

It also condemned Israel's military operation for assassinating Palestinian Liberation Organisation leader Khalil Al Wazir which, he said, was carried out with the help of civilian aircraft.

Last month at an AACO meeting held in Amman, Dajani sent a cable on behalf of the delegates to the Kuwaiti Airways Board Chairman Ahmad Mushari expressing condemnation of the hijacking of the Kuwaiti passenger plane as a terrorist act, and voiced the organisation's solidarity and support for the Kuwait Airways.

According to Dajani, the general assembly decided to hold a seminar within the coming six months to discuss the merger of big world airlines and its effects on Arab civil aviation.



Princess Basma Sunday presents a diploma to a student who completed a course at Marka Vocational Training Centre (Petra photo)

Princess Basma presents diplomas to 43 students

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund, Sunday presented diplomas to 43 students who completed two training courses on sales and sewing, organised by the vocational training centre in Marka.

Sunday's event comes as part of Jordan's celebrations of the Independence Day, which is celebrated in various parts of the Kingdom.

Princess Basma also inaugurated the library festival, organised by the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) in cooperation with Department of Libraries, Documentation and National Archives, to mark the occasion. The celebration was attended by Ministry of Social Development Secretary General Mohammad Sougour and the VTC Director General Munther Al Masri.

Irbid Governor Akram Al Nasr opened a plastic art and handicraft exhibition organised by

Irbid Secondary Girls School to celebrate the Independence Day. In Zarqa Governorate Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Saturday presented certificates to 88 students who have completed training on sewing, typing and hairdressing, organised by Zarqa Cultural Centre.

Princess Alia also opened handicraft and flower exhibition, organised by the centre in cooperation with the Education Department.

To mark the occasion also, the Greek Catholic bishop in Zarqa held a sport, cultural and art festival under the patronage of the Education Department director.

The celebration was attended by the Greek Catholic bishop and number of government officials.

In Ramtha, Hussein Habashneh, the district governor, attended a special celebration held on the occasion.

The celebration included marches, and folkloric performances.

Arab cardiologists to meet on June 2

AMMAN (Petra) — Cardiologists from different parts of the Arab World will gather in Amman on June 2 for the first constituent assembly meeting of the newly established Arab Cardiac Society (ACS).

The ACS's Secretary General Dr. Munir Arida said in the three-day meeting the cardiologists will endorse the ACS internal regulations and statutes, elect an administrative board and set a date for holding the first ACS conference.

The idea of establishing the society was fostered several years ago but was generally accepted and endorsed at a heart conference held in Amman in 1986, Arida said.

Jordan, he added, has adopted the idea of a society and has been working, in cooperation with cardiologists from the Arab World, to establish the ACS which would promote the work of Arab cardiologists.

"Last January, Arab cardiologists



Dr. Munir Arida

held a conference in Dubai when they finally endorsed the idea of a society and elected Dr. Daoud Hanania from Jordan to serve as its first president," Arida said.

He said that the coming meeting is designed to lay down the society's final organisation and elect new ACS board of directors.

"The ACS groups cardiologists and researchers in heart surgery and is composed of several committees, each dealing with certain specialisation," Arida said.

The ACS will organise seminars, conferences and other gatherings, and will help promote an exchange of information and expertise within the Arab World for the benefit of cardiologists and Arab citizens, Arida added.

RACA to meet on June 1

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Near East, North Africa Regional Agricultural Credit Association (RACA) will open general assembly meetings at its headquarters in Amman on June 1 in cooperation with the Agricultural Credit Corporation, the Jordan Cooperative Organisation, the Central Bank of Jordan and the Jordanian Farmers Association.

At least 80 RACA members will take part in the meetings to discuss subjects pertaining to credit to farmers, RACA annual report and future plans.

RACA will also organise a seminar on ways for following up the implementation of agricultural credit programmes, according to an association official.

He said that the seminar will review four different working papers one of which will be submitted by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). Agriculture Minister Marwan Hmoud is expected to open the meetings during which delegates from 33 member institutions will elect a new board for a new term.

Society to honour medical team which worked in Lebanon camps

By Nadia Alami
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Medical Aid for Palestinians Society in Amman will hold a reception in honour of the President of the Medical Aid for Palestinians Dr. Derik Cooper, Dr. Soudai Ingh and nurse Susan Dayton, who lived and worked in refugee camps in Lebanon during the period of international recognition as "the war of camps" period in 1985.

The reception will be an expression of gratitude from the Jordanian people to the three

medical personnel for their continued efforts to help the Palestinian people and to ease their suffering in the refugee camps.

Cooper, an established friend of the Arab World, especially the Palestinian people, had served in the British army during the British mandate in Palestine prior to World War II and witnessed the conspiracy against the people of Palestine during that time.

Since then, Cooper has worked in different organisations aimed at supporting the Palestinians in their plight, which eventually led Israel into considering him as a persona non grata in the occupied territories in 1973.

He was expelled from the occupied Arab territories and was given 24 hours in which to leave the country.

Surgeon Soudai Ingh, a Singaporean national, joined a medical team working in Lebanon during the Israeli invasion of the country in 1982.

In the Sabra camp, Ingh was sentenced to death by shooting by Israelis but "as saved at the last minute when an Israeli soldier checked her passport and feared consequences of her execution. She was pulled out of a line which was destined to be killed and was taken to the officer in command who asked to leave the country immediately.

In 1985, when Lebanon based refugee camps were under siege, Ingh formed a medical team and headed towards Beirut to help the Red Cross hospital of Haifa in Bourj Al Barajneh camp.

Nurse Dayton, volunteered to work in Beirut in 1986 with Dr. Pauline Cutting until the situation in the camps under siege deteriorated and there was no chance for her to stay.

Upon her return to England in March 1987, Dayton was presented with the Medal of Honour by Queen Elizabeth of England in recognition for her bravery in Lebanon.

Dayton has since returned to Lebanon and visited the West Bank and Gaza Strip disregarding all threats to kill her.

The Medical Aid for Palestinians Committee, was established in 1984 by Cooper and is registered in England as a charity organisation. The committee has already sent seven different medical teams to Lebanon.

Majali: New system to reorganise police force

AMMAN (Petra) — Public Security Department (PSD) Director General Abdul Hadi Al Majali said Sunday that the implementation of a PSD comprehensive security programme required closing of earlier police stations in some areas of the Kingdom.

Addressing a meeting held at the Police Academy in Amman, Majali said that the new security centres, which replaced the police stations, involve the participation of citizens and reorganisation of the police force in the country.

The new system includes new training programmes for the police, recruiting selected groups of skilled elements to promote the work of the police force, and providing special technical equipment, new specially equipped vehicles and new and modern communication systems, Majali noted.

Later, a new training course on combating narcotics opened at the academy and was addressed by Majali's assistant and officials from a U.S. anti-narcotics bureau, which is organising the course.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

RIFAI RECEIVES NABULSI: Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Sunday discussed with Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia Secretary General Mohammad Said Al Nahulsi, now on a visit to Jordan, scopes of cooperation between Jordan and the commission.

PEACE CONFERENCE: Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ministry Secretary General Abdul Salam Al Abbadi Sunday returned home from Baghdad after taking part in the International People's Conference on Peace, which ended in the Iraqi capital Saturday.

GRADUATION: Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thounan Hindawi Sunday reviewed the challenges facing the Jordanian society and referred in particular to the role of Jordanian women in countering the challenges side by side with men to build a better future for the coming generations. The deputy prime minister was speaking at the graduation ceremony of the 34th batch of students from the Roman Catholic girls' school, which was held at the Hussein Youth City Palace of Culture.

ENVOY MEETS MINISTER: Information Minister Hani Khasawneh Sunday reviewed with Yugoslav Ambassador to Jordan Zoran Popovic bilateral relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Secretary General Nabil Al Nizar also discussed with Swedish Ambassador to Jordan Lars Lounback, bilateral relations.

CANADIAN DEFENCE TEAM: A delegation from the National Defence College of Canada, currently on a visit to Jordan, Sunday toured a number of military institutions and sites, including the Royal War Academy, the command and staff college and the Fourth Royal Mechanised Division and were briefed about their activities and duties.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: Jordan will take part in the Arab-Belgian-Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce meetings, due to be held in the Belgian capital of Brussels Monday, to discuss the chamber's activities and projects for the current year, and the arrangements for the Arab economic and commercial days to be organised in both Belgium and Luxembourg next year.

CULTIVATION OF LENTILS: A seminar on mechanising the cultivation of lentils in Jordan was held at Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) Sunday in cooperation with a specialised Canadian company.

VETERINARIANS: The Jordanian Veterinarians Association (JVA) is making preparations for the June 10 elections of a board of directors. So far three vets have declared their nomination as candidates for the post of board chairman.

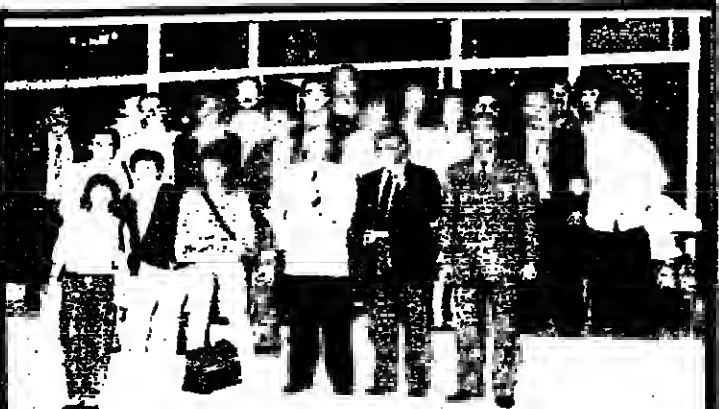
TEAM VISITS AL JAFR: A working team from the Planning Ministry, headed by planning director, Sunday visited Al Jafra area in the southern badia to explore areas that need to be developed in the various economic, social and agricultural areas.

ANNUAL INCREMENTS: The cabinet has decided to grant two annual increments to community college graduates who have been appointed before the issuance of the new civil servants regulation, and who are still at work.

MAN JAILED: The military governor has endorsed the military court's verdict sentencing Sa'adi Abdullah Hassan Isha to 8 months in prison and payment of a fine of JD 200 after finding him guilty of embezzlement.

INDEPENDENCE DAY: Marking Jordan's Independence Day, Mu'ta University held Sunday the Open Karate Championship for Jordanian clubs in association with the Jordanian Karate Federation. The university president delivered a speech reviewing the achievements Jordan attained in various fields under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein.

ABS PLAY: The Revue art troupe at the Amman Baccalaureate School (ABS) performed over the past two days a play entitled, Al Muftah, the key, which speaks the story of the man's struggle to achieve his goals. The play carries a call for people to live the reality and not to follow the mirage. It also embodies belonging to the land and love for the homeland.



ITALIAN DELEGATION: An Italian tourism delegation, which represents the Rallo Vignoli Travel Agency in Italy arrived in Amman Sunday following an invitation extended to them by the Holiday Inn Company in Amman and Aqaba. Rallo Vignoli is mainly concerned with promoting Jordan in Italy. So far indications are that Italian tourists groups visiting the country this year will reach 65 groups. This was a result of agreements reached in the Milano International Touristic Fair in February this year, in which Jordan was represented by Mr. Faissal Abu Nawar, director of sales and marketing at Holiday Inn in Amman and Aqaba.

UNRWA teachers stage 2nd sit-in

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Eighty-two elected representatives of over 4,000 United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) teachers, staged their second sit-in Sunday in protest against the agency's disregard for their demands.

Adnan Hamad, head of the demonstrators and principal of UNRWA sponsored Al Manshiyah school, told the Jordan Times that the UNRWA teachers have "tried all possible means open to us before we reached this stage" of peaceful demonstration.

He said adopting this "negative method in conveying our message is the last thing we would have thought of, but what do you do when all doors are closed in your face?"

The demonstrators have a list of over ten demands which apply to different aspects of financial returns and health insurance for their work.

To them, all their demands are reasonable and well studied, but UNRWA officials maintain that "the wages and security benefits offered by the agency (to its employees) are better than those of government employed teachers in our host country, Jordan."

Abdul Rahman Itayem, UNRWA information officer in Amman, told the Jordan Times that "these employees forget that we are not a government, we are an organisation which depends on international donations for its budget."

Both UNRWA officials and UNRWA teachers are using the formula of comparison with government employed teachers to support their contradicting arguments.

According to Itayem, an UNRWA teacher who carries a community college degree receives a basic salary of JD 127 per month, while a university graduate starts at JD 160. According to a source in the Jordanian government the basic salary for its teachers is around JD 85.

But Hamad pointed out that "the agency still regards our situation as if we are better off than our government counterparts, they compare a salary by salary, they do not compare one reality with another."

The examples given by Hamad as indications of UNRWA teachers reality is "job security," Hamad explained that "teachers working for the agency work in constant fear that the agency would run out of funds and be unable to pay us, we would lose our jobs, this is a fear that could not be given any concrete price."

He added that retirement age for government employees is after 20 years of service for men and 15 years for women, while UNRWA teachers are only entitled to retirement benefits after 30 years of service, "those 30 years were a concession by the agency which they regard as a very positive step," Hamad said.

No cost of living allowances

Hamad told the Jordan Times that while government employees

are paid monthly pension after retirement, UNRWA employees only receive end of service compensation. He added that government employees are still receiving cost of living allowances while these were stopped for UNRWA employees since Jan. 1, 1985.

What initially triggered the whole controversy is an UNRWA decision to give a ten per cent increase in wages to senior staff, while the argument of insufficient funds and financial crises was being used on the teachers and staff in lower categories.

Hamad said that this move has created a "sense of disappointment and sensitivity among the small employees." He explained that the senior staff's increase could cover a wage increase for 50 per cent of the teachers.

Itayem argued that the increase in income was not for all of the senior staff but for those employees who have to "be appreciated for the volume of responsibility they carry," he explained that this added income "does not enter their basic salary, it is considered an allowance." He stressed that "these people could not be matched as far as the agency could see."

But he concedes that more could have been done to better the status of the teachers in the agency if it was not for the financial crisis which hit the agency in 85. "The agency had a budget deficit of \$85 million."

He also said that "85 per cent of the budget of the agency is spent on salaries for its over 17,000 employees in the Middle East and headquarters in Vienna." Itayem pointed out that the agency receives money from donor countries "to maintain our current activities and not to overspend."

Health insurance

The demands of the demonstrators include health insurance. Hamad said the agency's insurance covers only 2 per cent of hospitalisation for its employees and their dependents, but does

not include other health services. Itayem discredited the importance of the claim, "while it is true that we pay about 2.5 per cent of hospitalisation, we have many UNRWA affiliated health centres and clinics which offer medical services to UNRWA employees free of charge," he said.

Hamad also said the duration of their school year is longer than that adopted in Jordan. "If we are going to use a comparison theory then it should apply to the different aspects of our job."

"He explained that UNRWA affiliated training centres (there are two) have a 42-week scholastic year, their counterparts in government have 35-week scholastic year. Hamad said: "This means that we work for an extra seven weeks a year without financial return."

More students in classes

The number of students in the average class, according to Hamad, ideally would be around 25-30 students per class, but in UNRWA schools this is not the case. "Student load in a single class is around 50 students which reflects negatively on the quality of education they receive."

Hamad denied claims made by UNRWA officials about the naiveties of their strike during the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories. "We do not allow anyone to doubt our feelings towards our people in the occupied territories," He said the two issues were not related and should be left that way.

Will this peaceful demonstration bring any results? Hamad, speaking on behalf of the teachers said that their "hopes are very high that the agency would listen to the voice of reason and would give us our rights."

Asked whether they would take further measures to pressure the agency into complying, Hamad did not give details but he said, "we will continue to push for our rights, but we will not do anything which will adversely affect our students."

There are 196 UNRWA affiliated schools in Jordan, 176 of which work double shift — morning and afternoon — and another 20 operate single shift, these schools provide education for around 135,000 students, all inside and outside refugee camps.

RSS, METU discuss bilateral cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — A senior official from the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) has discussed the society's cooperation in biomedical technology with officials from the Middle East Technical University (METU) in Ankara, according to the second issue of the RSS news for May.

It said that Dr. Hagob Peltekian, who is director of the RSS's Electronic Services and Training Centre, agreed with the METU to promote cooperation in the following fields: Joint research projects on subjects of mutual

interest, exchange of engineers, technicians and experts for the purpose of research, training and consultation in the field of biomedical technology, exchange of scientific and technological information, organisation of bilateral scientific conference and training programmes of mutual interest.

The RSS News quoted Peltekian as saying the agreement comes within the context of a scientific cooperation protocol signed by Turkey and Jordan in 1983.



Specialists and government officials attend a workshop on Jordanian Seismic Zoning and Earthquake Resistance Building Code which opened at the Royal Scientific Society in Amman Sunday (Petra photo)

Workshop on seismic zoning opens

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A five-day workshop on Jordanian Seismic Zoning and Earthquake Resistance Building Code, opened at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) in Amman Sunday.

Participants, representing different ministries and concerned national institutions as well as specialists on earthquake from different countries, are revising the earthquake map in Jordan and the RSS's building code which provides for adequate measures to ensure safety from earthquakes.

The symposium was organised by the RSS in cooperation with the Ministry of Planning and UN-

ESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation). In July last year, the RSS organised a five-day symposium on reducing the effects of earthquakes in the Kingdom.

The participants worked out a tentative programme for providing a three year comprehensive training course to Jordanian personnel on seismology.

That meeting paved the way for Sunday's workshop which is also designed to find means to control the effects of earthquake in the Kingdom.

During last year's meeting, the participants addressed such sub-

NRA team leaves for Bahrain

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A delegation from the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) left for Bahrain on a month-long visit and inspection of training programmes for the exploitation of natural gas and its use to generate electricity.

The team, which groups engineers and technicians working for the NRA, will acquire necessary skills for the exploitation of gas finds at Rishe Fields near the Iraqi border.

Last month Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatib announced that Jordan will start using natural gas discovered at Rishe Fields for power generation early next year.

"The coming decade is expected to witness a new, major transformation in the development of the Kingdom's mineral resources, especially oil and gas, which would help cut down on the country's fuel bill," Khatib said in an address with which he

opened the third Jordanian Geological Conference.

Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) Assistant Director General Walid Jaouni confirmed later that plans have been made for the installation of two 30-megawatt gas turbine power generation units at the Rishe Fields, and work was progressing on a two-stage 30-kilometre long transmission line to link Al Rishe Fields with the national grid.

In January, Ministry of Energy officials said the discovery of large quantities of natural gas in Al Rishe area delayed the execution of the second phase of the Aqaba Thermal Power Station until next year.

The officials said that preliminary indication calls for further planning and more long-term studies to divert the Jordanian economy towards the use of natural gas.

At present, gas produced by Al Rishe Fields comes out at the rate

of 2,000 barrels a day, but studies indicate that the area would be developed to increase its gas production soon.

Most of Jordan's fuel is now imported from Iraq and Saudi Arabia and the NRA hopes that the new gas finds will help reduce the Kingdom's dependence on imported oil through further development of the Hamzeh Oil Fields which at present produce 500 barrels a day of crude oil.

"The NRA is enlisting the help of oil companies to find oil in a number of regions and will continue to work diligently to achieve that goal, NRA President Kamal Jreisat was quoted as saying earlier this month."

Jreisat said that through the technique of remote sensing, the NRA was able to discover Rishe Gas Field number three, and plans are being laid down to establish a special remote sensing unit to help in the work of oil exploration in the Kingdom.

Jordan Times

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First things first

EFFORTS are under way in earnest to prepare for the extraordinary Arab summit scheduled to be held in Algiers on June 7, and, judging from Arab reports, it is evident that one of the major issues facing the Arab leaders is whether to leave the agenda open or limit it to the Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza. What seems to be overlooked in the behind-the-scenes consultations is the fact that summits, by definition, are supposed to be attended by leaders of the highest level and therefore it should be the political right of the leaders to raise any issues that warrant discussion in the context of Arab coordination and joint Arab action.

By the same token, it is widely accepted, both in the Arab World and outside, that as long as the Iran-Iraq war drags on very little could be achieved in the way of concrete steps from Arab summits on any other issue since the Arab Gulf leaders are preoccupied with the implications of the almost eight-year-old conflict. The recent addition to the American fleet in the Gulf of formidable firepower has raised prospects for further Iranian-American confrontation in the strategic waterway and added to the already intense concern of the Gulf states, which will find themselves as the target for Iranian fury sparked by predictable setbacks in the Gulf waters as well as on the battlefield with Iraq. It is difficult to expect from the Algiers summit any solid step to support the Palestinian uprising without having the Arab leaders addressing the Iran-Iraq conflict and other issues of common concern.

The recent Iraqi advances on the battlefield should indeed be a pointer to the Arab leaders that the military balance is gradually tilting in favour of Iraq despite the numerical superiority of the Iranians. Tehran does not seem to have accepted the reality, as was evident from Saturday's message issued by Khomeini to the Iranian parliament. Political mediation spearheaded by the international community seems to be getting nowhere either.

The Algiers summit offers the right forum for Arab leaders to reassess their strategy, if indeed there is one, on the Iran-Iraq war, to rally behind Iraq both politically and militarily, and to address the Iranians in a single voice. If that is an unattainable goal, there seems to be little sense in a summit where leaders half-heartedly discuss an issue while they are seriously preoccupied with another.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Looking towards Moscow

IT is quite natural to think that the superpower summit which opens in Moscow Sunday is on the mind of all people around the world in view of the results that might come out of such an important meeting between the heads of the two greatest nations on earth. The two leaders, Reagan and Gorbachev, are expected to discuss a host of very important questions like disarmament and regional issues like the Middle East. But it is quite logical to assume that the Middle East question would not be at the top of priorities since Washington has not made any change in its position and has not declared its support for an international conference nor for the rights of the Palestinian people in their own homeland. Washington is echoing the Israeli view and supporting Israeli leaders' rejections of any call for withdrawal from occupied Arab territories. In the light of these facts, we have little hope that Reagan and Gorbachev will find sufficient time to discuss the Arab-Israeli conflict. In addition, Reagan is expected to bring up the question of Soviet Jews and their human rights, and to call on the Soviet leader to open the door for these Jews to emigrate to Israel.

Al Dustour: East-West detente

THE heads of the two superpowers hold a summit meeting in Moscow Sunday amid indications of great improvement in relations between them. The meeting is considered another stage in East-West detente, and another step towards stemming the nuclear arms race and nuclear wars. Any progress in the talks by the two leaders is bound to be reflected positively on all relations between countries in the East and the West, and to promote international cooperation to end regional conflicts and enhance the cause of peace. We closely watch the outcome of the Moscow summit and join the peoples of the world in hoping that the two leaders will give the Middle East question due consideration and concern since it constitutes one of the most chronic issues in the world, and entails danger to the whole universe. We hope that Reagan and Gorbachev will tackle the Arab-Israeli conflict at a time when the Palestinian people escalate their uprising and their revolt against the occupation forces and against oppression. We believe that the Middle East question will impose itself on the coming summit in view of the seriousness of the situation in our region, and we hope that the two leaders will reach a formula leading to the establishment of a just and lasting peace.

Sawt Al Shaab: Moscow summit

THE Soviet-American summit in Moscow is bound to discuss world issues in general and the Arab-Israeli conflict in particular. The Soviet Union holds a clear position and supports the Arab rights and the call for the convening of an international conference to help end this conflict and establish a lasting peace. Moscow has more than once supported Jordan's views in this regard and the efforts of King Hussein to reach a lasting and comprehensive peace. The Arab rights and the Palestinian cause have won the support of nations in Europe and the rest of the world. This has brought about a slight change in the American position, making Washington more flexible in its views about the issue. But the American stand will be put to the test at the Moscow summit and the U.S. will have to declare its position clearly with regard to the projected peace conference which is demanded by the Arabs and the peace loving nations of the world. We regard the superpower summit in Moscow as another positive step towards detente, and hope that the two powers will arrive at an acceptable formula that would pave the way for a Middle East peace.

School holidays revisited

By Waleed Sadi

IF ONE were to describe Jordan, country and people, I think three principal words would be most apt: Moderate, flexible and reasonable. Seldom if at all has Jordan been dogmatic or doctrinaire about any issue or subject matter affecting its domestic or external pursuits or policies. It views and confronts its internal and foreign challenges and vexing problems with open mindedness and tolerance for opposite and conflicting ideas provided they can conform to its principal positions and guidelines.

Viewed against the above-mentioned backdrop, one must presume that our experiments with school curricula and holiday periods for our elementary and secondary schooling systems is subject to the tribulations of trial and error and that there is nothing dogmatic or fixed about the new attitudes and rules introduced to our schools sort of abruptly in the middle of the scholastic year 1987-88. The part which is concerned with the distribution of school holidays or vacation times has attracted most attention by student and teacher alike, not to mention the parents, because it was a major departure from established perspectives on school holidays in Jordan. We have lived with the same rules and guidelines which governed this subject for too long and no one dared molesting them or interfering with them. National habits formed and crystallised around the long-held tradition of allocating long summer holidays and short intervals of vacations in during scholastic years. Many of us took it for granted that old traditions die hard and never thought it is conceivable to amend the fixed programmes for our students.

I must presume that the decision to make changes in our school programmes and holiday periods came in the wake of painstaking research and investigation. One must also presume that any such research and investigation was conducted with the collective views of students, parents and teachers taken into consideration in varying degrees relative to their respective importance. After all, the students and their parents are directly affected by any such decisions and it is in the nature of Jordan to democratise the decision-making process in such issues as much as possible. Yet the abruptness with which the decision on this matter was taken, with the students and their parents and many teachers caught by surprise and unprepared, makes one weary of whether such a decision was broadly based. This fact has led the Jordanian Educational Department in the West Bank to sort of rebel and declare that it was unable to introduce such major changes in the school life-style all of a sudden. Such suddenness also rebuts the presumption that the whole country was warned or advised of the impending changes before hand in order to prepare itself to such rectifications. Even positive and profoundly good changes require a transitional time

for implementation in order to gauge how the country can gear up to them and adjust to the new ways of life that would have to ensue as a consequence of their incorporation in the overall life-style of the country. Yet all such precautionary steps were wantonly by-passed as if the intention was to preempt public reaction by a fait accompli. Such is not the style or habit of Jordan and that's why many parents were bothered not so much by the changes themselves as by the ways adopted for their implementation. And one is hard put to explain why such innovations had to be introduced right in the middle of the scholastic year instead of waiting until the end of the school year to proclaim the new rules applicable for the forthcoming year. That would have been more in conformity with the Jordanian mode of conducting its internal affairs.

As far as the substance of the whole experiment (I trust it is an experiment) regarding school vacation periods, I wonder if the following factors were taken into consideration:

First, the climatic conditions in Jordan with August and June being among the hottest months. We certainly cannot afford the deployment of air conditioning in our public schools and accordingly our students will have to sweat it out during these two difficult months for objectives that have yet to be corroborated by clinical evidence in this country. We cannot dismiss this point about climatic considerations because the whole world has learned to give them their due after much trial and error. And since we are concerned with quality education not just the number of class-hours and quantitative criteria, I wonder if this matter was given its full due when it was decided to close the school year late in the hot summer season and begin it almost in the middle of the hot summer.

Secondly, for the majority of the student body in Jordan who cannot afford to go skiing in the winter and visit Egypt or the Greek island in the spring, one wonders what possible use is the three weeks winter holiday and the two weeks spring holiday for them. The students and teachers certainly need a break or two during the school year over and above the main summer holidays. But is it reasonable to have such long breaks when only the rich make use of? Wouldn't it be more advisable to have a ten days winter vacation and a one week spring vacation and lengthen the summer vacation. And has it crossed our minds that perhaps the needy families need their youngsters to work during the summer in order to help them out to meet their economic needs? In fact many teen-agers from poor families do seek employment here and there including in the agricultural sector of our economy in order to save

some money on which they can sustain themselves during the normal school year.

One often hears the remark that three months of summer holiday are simply too long as students would return to school forgetting what they have learned in the preceding school year. Well, many countries with similar climatic conditions to ours did not seem to register or record that conclusion yet. In fact many countries with long hot summers have four-month breaks instead of three. Besides, if there is fear that long breaks could damage the accumulative knowledge of our students, then, I am afraid, we must be more concerned with the days and years after graduation. If three months are construed as long enough to intervene with normal acquisition of knowledge and that such durations are long enough to cause the evaporation of what education our students have gathered during the school year, then I am afraid there is something basically wrong with the whole educational system in Jordan. School habits and educational methods in our country are such that one may not really fear the disappearance of the knowledge acquired during the long school months. We would render our education system too much unjustified if we entertain the presumption that all will be lost and gone with it our students have three months break during the long hot summer. Moreover, empirical evidence in Jordan does not support such propositions and the results and fruits of our educational system does not bear out such gloomy forecast and prognosis.

This is not to suggest that there is no room to improve our school system. On the contrary there are plenty of reasons to enhance the quality of our education. But let's begin with substantive issues that touch the heart of our educational system rather than have our students suffer needlessly the agonies of classrooms in the long hot summer. To cite just a few examples, many of our enlightened educators maintain that nowadays the emphasis is on the phenomenon of "recognition" rather than on "creativity" and "production" and that we have acquired such new approaches from foreign experiments which have not proved their worth or validity. Others cite the "memorisation" style of education in our schools as the most demoralising way of educating our youngsters. Some go as far as questioning the whole foundation of the Tawjihi certificate programme and call it archaic. With all honesty a layman like myself cannot pass a judgement on such intricate issues in the science of education and therefore prefer to confine myself to such subjects and issues that parents have the right and duty to express their thoughts on. School breaks, I think, is a subject that the average citizen can touch on because it affects him as well as his children.

What Palestinians should do to attain statehood

By Jerome M. Segal

WASHINGTON — The uprising in the occupied territories is the most important event in the last 20 years of Palestinian history. The most fundamental meaning of the uprising consists in the transformation it is bringing to virtually the entire Palestinian population of the territories. For the first time they have fully entered history as agents of their own destiny.

Yet for all that, it is not obvious that the uprising has moved the Palestinian people any closer to attaining an independent state. It appears that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has successfully blocked American efforts to initiate an international conference, and public-opinion polls suggest that, if anything, the Israeli public has moved a bit to the right.

Inside Israel there are those that say that, if no settlement is reached soon, there will be another war with the Arab countries, yet there are no Israeli leaders acting decisively for the self-interest of their own country. Inside the United States, the American Jewish community is unable to find a strong moral voice, and within the Palestinian world there seems to be a shortage of ideas as to how to move from the present situation to statehood.

It is time to rethink some of the basic premises. Up to now, Palestinians have placed tremendous import on an international conference, negotiations, and PLO representation at such negotiations. Not much is heard

about what happens if such negotiations begin and then deadlock. Perhaps it is believed that the price of failure would be so great that once started, it would necessitate a comprehensive solution. Yet this is wishful thinking. It is perfectly likely that negotiations will simply be unable to generate a solution acceptable to Israelis and Palestinians, and it is also likely that the superpowers will lack the will to impose a solution.

If we probe a bit deeper, we see that the present strategy for attaining an independent Palestinian state embodies a model that needs to be challenged. That model is that statehood emerges from negotiations and agreements. In short, it assumes that no Palestinian state can come into existence unless there is prior Israeli approval.

Yet consider how Israel itself came into existence. Following the U.N. partition resolution of 1947, the Israelis simply declared the existence of the state of Israel. Indeed, they made that declaration contrary to the urging of the U.S. State Department. They did not get Arab or Palestinian advance approval. They did not negotiate with the Palestinians. They proceeded unilaterally, and gradually secured international recognition, admission to the United Nations, and effective control of territory.

There are important analogies and non-analogies here for the Palestinians. Today's military and political realities totally preclude achieving statehood through force of arms. But on the other hand, today's political, moral,

economic and psychological realities offer new alternatives within the same basic concept: The Palestinians do not need advance Israeli approval to bring a state into existence, and there is no reason why they should cede such power to Israel. Indeed, to do so is inconsistent with the underlying spirit of the uprising. An alternative strategy is possible — one that overnight will transform the political agenda, and place the two-state solution in centre stage as the only peace option. Here is how the Palestinians might proceed.

"If we probe a bit deeper, we see that the present strategy for attaining an independent Palestinian state embodies a model that needs to be challenged. That model is

Palestinian people.

— The new government issue Law 1 that proclaims: The state of Palestine declares itself at peace with the state of Israel, the state of Palestine will not maintain an army.

— The new government offers Israel the exchange of ambassadors and mutual recognition.

— Law 2 is issued, forbidding all acts of terrorism and announcing penalties for any violations.

— A worldwide diplomatic offensive is declared seeking recognition of the new state and its

that statehood emerges from negotiations and agreements. In short, it assumes that no Palestinian state can come into existence unless there is prior Israeli approval.

admission to the United Nations.

— The provisional government calls for direct negotiations to set boundaries with Israel and to establish a permanent Israel-Palestine peace treaty.

— Israeli withdrawal becomes the central demand, internationally and within the territories. All the energy currently expended on peripheral matters is now concentrated on this single demand. Whereas, previously Israel was occupying a territory, it is now occupying a foreign country that has declared that it is at peace. To promote withdrawal and to eliminate any excuses for a continued military presence, the

provisional government announces a ban on all lethally violent attacks on Israeli soldiers; no violence is allowed against settlers except in clear self-defence. At the same time, the Palestinian people are called to enter into only symbolic activity directed against Israeli soldiers in the territories. Stone throwing is permitted, but only insofar as it is undertaken symbolically, (i.e. with no lethal intent). Use of gasoline bombs is forbidden. If diplomatic efforts fail to secure either negotiations or withdrawal, an intensified campaign of international economic pressure is undertaken.

— The real focus of energies will be on building the inner sinews of national life and statehood by the following measures: Secret local elections, economic self-reliance, reopened schools or classes held in secret, social services expanded on a village level, a national anthem emphasising peace.

— With the assistance of the Arab states the provisional government should issue a new Palestinian currency. To ensure its use and value even during the period of occupation, its conversion into dollars should be guaranteed. Within the territories a small gold coin should be introduced. The inherent value of the coin will ensure that it will be taken seriously even by Israelis. Every time a transaction is paid using this coin, Palestinian statehood will be affirmed.

— The new government, to symbolise the end to statelessness, should promptly issue passports. These should be made

available to any Palestinian in the world who desires one. An announcement should be made that the state of Palestine will allow dual citizenship. Palestinians who are citizens of other states should be encouraged to apply for and travel on Palestinian passports.

— The provisional government and the new constitution should proclaim that Palestine shall be democracy with an independent judiciary and a bill of rights to protect individual liberties. The United Nations will be asked to supervise the first possible national election.

The great merit of this approach is that the two-state solution, which continues to be viewed as a "non-starter" in Israel and the United States, will simply start itself. In doing so, it will follow the spirit of the uprising: That the Palestinian people on the ground will decide their own destiny.

Let me add a final personal note: If it seems odd that a Jew should offer his thoughts on how Palestinians can be successful in their struggle for statehood, I should state my conviction that the struggle for an independent Palestinian state is also the struggle for a humane and safe Israel, and that there can be no Judaism without a commitment to justice.

Jerome Segal, who is a research scholar at the Centre for Philosophy and Public Policy at the University of Maryland and a founder of the Jewish Committee for Israeli-Palestinian Peace, wrote this article for The Washington Post.

Polisario fighters drifting back to Moroccan lines

By Michael Goldsmith
The Associated Press

EL AYOUN, Western Sahara — Cherif Hassana, for 12 years a guerrilla fighter, put his turban on the end of his rifle and surrendered to Moroccan soldiers. Bachir Hammed slipped away from a guerrilla-sponsored soccer team during an overseas tour.

With the declining fortunes of the Marxist-led Polisario independence movement in the Western Sahara, more and more guerrillas are deserting the movement and drifting back across the desert to join the Moroccan side.

Moroccan officials say the deserters are arriving at an average rate of about 10 per week, often at the risk of their lives.

A group of foreign reporters met many of them on a recent government-sponsored tour of the Moroccan-annexed Western Sahara.

Usually talking in the presence of Moroccan officials, they painted a grim picture of conditions in refugee and guerrilla camps in the Polisario Front's Algerian sanctuaries.

The Algerian-backed Polisario Front claims that more than 165,000 refugees are living in tent camps around the Algerian oasis

of Tindouf after fleeing from "Moroccan oppression." The Moroccans say about two-thirds of the refugees are not even from the disputed territory.

All deserters interviewed had fled before May 16, when Algeria and Morocco made their surprise announcement of resumed diplomatic and "fraternal" relations after hovering on the brink of war over the Sahara for more than 12 years.

"Stab in the back"

Several said the Polisario must have felt the announcement like a "stab in the back" from Algeria.

"It must have been a terrible shock," said Maj. Cherif Hassana, 35, who fought in the Polisario's ranks for 12 years, rising to deputy company commander among the estimated 8,000 guerrillas before deserting.

"For all these years, the Algerians promised they would never establish relations with Morocco until the Sahara had become independent."

Like many other deserters, Hassana claimed he was recruited by force in 1975, at the end of Spanish colonial rule in the Western Sahara. He previously served as an enlisted man in the Spanish

colonial army.

"It was on leave in my family's tent in the desert," he said. "Polisario men came in landrovers and grabbed me. In the camps, I was brainwashed and promised a career as an officer."

He said he gradually became disillusioned and began looking for opportunities to escape.

"I was not easy," he said. "We were all under constant supervision, even the officers. Anyone trying to get an unusual quantity of gasoline was immediately suspect. Many who tried to escape were killed by their own units or by the mines in the desert."

He said he managed to get away in a vehicle while on patrol near Morocco's 1,500-mile defensive wall.

Fleeing through Paris

"I put my turban on the end of my rifle as a sign of surrender," Hassana said. "The Moroccans understood and guided me through the minefield with gestures."

Bachir Hammed, 23, was sent to France as captain of a Polisario soccer team purporting to represent Hawza, a desert settlement 100 miles inside the Moroccan wall.

Syrian deployment in S. Beirut sparks fresh hope for hostages

By Samia Nakhoul
Reuters

BEIRUT — Syria should gain substantial prestige and enhance its regional influence from its military action in Beirut's southern suburbs, especially if it leads to freedom for foreign hostages, diplomatic and political sources have said.

The disengagement of the warring pro-Syrian Amal and Iranian-backed Hizbollah militias has been the most delicate operation by Damascus since Lebanon's civil war erupted in 1975.

Hundreds of Syrian troops backed by Lebanese police poured into Beirut's 41 sq. km. of slum suburbs on Friday to end three weeks of fierce militia clashes which killed 425 people and injured more than 1,200.

"Syria has so far succeeded in achieving its objectives and controlling a turbulent and unpredictable neighbour," said an independent political source. "The suburbs was the toughest assignment."

"[Syria] boosted its image as the main decision-maker and peacekeeping force among Lebanon's warring factions," he added.

Diplomats said much still hung

on how Damascus would deal with the hijackers and kidnappers operating from the protective lawless shadows of the teeming Shi'ite slums.

Up to 18 of the Westerners missing and believed kidnapped by pro-Iranian militants in Lebanon are widely thought to be held in the suburbs.

"The Syrian deployment will deal with thorny issues such as hostages but not before the Syrians consolidate their presence in the suburbs, which might take some time," a pro-Syrian source said.

Ending hostages ordeal

A pro-Iranian source said: "The hostage issue is an Iranian concern and Syria will not press Hizbollah on that matter unless they reach a political agreement to end it."

"Syria will do its utmost to end the hostage issue to win international acclaim. But for a certain price," commented a political observer.

Well experienced with peacekeeping in fragmented Lebanon, Syria demonstrated patient tact and diplomacy in persuading Iran to approve the deployment. But a two-week delay

allowed Hizbollah to make important gains at Amal's cost.

Diplomats said a prime concern of both Damascus and Tehran was not to endanger their regional alliance.

"Syria has never allowed any other foreign power to compete with its influence in Lebanon. It used all its diplomacy to spare any decline in its ties with Iran," said one Iranian source.

About 7,000 Syrian troops already controlled west Beirut. The move into the suburbs means Damascus now holds all the Lebanese capital's Muslim districts.

Political experts regarded the timing as important, with foreign powers and local groups jockeying for position ahead of Lebanon's presidential elections, due in August.

"When there is a complex issue, we think of ways to sort it out and then we deal with it in our appropriate way," Brigadier Ghazi Kanaan, Syria's chief of military intelligence in Lebanon, said last week.

Syria last year negotiated the peaceful entry of its troops into Muslim west Beirut to end militia street battles.

Beirut move strengthens Syrian hand

By John Fullerton
Reuters

NICOSIA — Syria's bloodless occupation of Beirut's battle-scarred southern suburbs has strengthened President Hafez Al Assad's hand in Lebanon and enhanced his prestige before the June Arab summit.

"To have gone into the suburbs with guns blazing would have been a bloody business that could have taken weeks, involved thousands of men, cost many lives and drained away what little wealth Syria has left," said a Western diplomat.

Syria adopted quiet diplomacy. It delayed the move despite having troops poised around the suburbs for two weeks while talks went on behind the scenes to secure Iranian agreement.

Even when Iran stalled on the deployment and battles raged on between Syrian-backed Amal militiamen and Iranian-supported Hizbollah (Party of God) fighters, Syria continued talking.

On Friday when the Syrians began their move into the suburbs, the stage had been set for Assad to win a military and diplomatic triumph by ending 22 days of fighting which had killed 425 people.

"Syria has surprised us all. We didn't think it could be done so painlessly," said an Arab diplomat. "It just goes to show no-one can afford to underestimate Damascus."

Political observers were quick to list the political gains as Syrian soldiers took control of the suburbs at the weekend.

The move boosts Assad's personal prestige just a week ahead of the June 7 Arab summit in Algiers.

The timing was crucial, for some of Syria's other regional policies appeared to be losing ground.

"Syria has so far failed to persuade (Palestine Liberation



Columns of Syrian soldiers move into Beirut's southern suburbs Saturday

Organisation) leader Yasser Arafat to sever ties with Egypt, while its ally Iran has suffered major reverses in its war against Iraq," said a political observer.

For the West, the deployment underlined the Syrian view that all roads lead to Damascus as far as the fate of 23 foreign hostages is concerned.

Eighteen of the hostages, including 10 Americans and two Britons, are reported to have been held in the suburbs by Hizbollah.

"Damascus has long been saying to the Americans, French and British: 'If you want your people freed, you have to deal with us. You won't get

anywhere without our help'."

one analyst said.

Syria also managed to deploy army units without sacrificing its strategic pact with Iran.

In Lebanon, Iran funds, trains and arms Hizbollah, a small but powerful Shiite force dedicated to eradicating Israeli, Western and secular Arab influence.

The southern suburbs form Hizbollah's urban bastion, a teeming slum packed with members of Lebanon's poorest and most politically disadvantaged community, the Shi'ites.

"To reach agreement with Iran on the suburbs, Syria had to convince Tehran it would send in its army one way or

another," the diplomat added.

"It was a matter of will. Had Syria's bluff been called, the resulting battle would have been very costly," he said.

Iran, in a statement issued by its embassy in Beirut Friday, urged militiamen not to violate the pact and pledged to implement it.

A journalist fresh from Beirut remained cautious.

"The business isn't over. Hizbollah is there in the shadows, and it still has its arms," he said.

"There's bound to be a cat-and-mouse game as Syria tries to enforce its will gradually in the suburbs. It's still an explosive situation."

Papandreou links Cyprus to progress in relations with Turkey

HERAKLION, Crete (AP) — Premier Andreas Papandreou has said progress in Greek-Turkish relations was linked to the removal of Turkish troops from the divided island of Cyprus.

"Progress on Cyprus means progress in Greek-Turkish relations. A presupposition for solving the Cyprus problem is the demilitarisation of the island," Papandreou told thousands of supporters at an open-air rally on this southern island Saturday.

Turkey has an estimated 30,000 troops stationed in the northern third of Cyprus. The island has been divided since 1974, when a short-lived Athens-backed coup triggered a Turkish invasion.

Papandreou's statements came one day after Greek and Turkish negotiators pledged in Athens to reduce tensions in the Aegean Sea region and continue a gradual rapprochement between their two countries.

Papandreou said progress meant not only the withdrawal of Turkish troops from the island, but also the removal of "the Turkish settlers. They are nothing but a paramilitary force."

He was referring to an estimated 60,000 mainland Turks that have settled in the breakaway Turkish republic of northern Cyprus. Turkish Cypriots declared independence in 1983, but only Turkey has recognised the mini-state.

The premier warned that "an attempt to expand the occupation in Cyprus automatically means war between Greece and Turkey."

Earlier Saturday, Papandreou held talks with Cypriot President George Vassiliou and briefed him on this week's Turkey-Greek talks. Vassiliou was on his way to New York to attend a special U.N. session on Cyprus.

Turkish Cypriots blame U.N. force for shootout

NICOSIA (R) — A Turkish-Cypriot leader said Sunday that negligence by United Nations peacekeeping forces led to the killing of a Turkish soldier by Greek Cypriot police in the U.N. buffer zone dividing Cyprus.

Foreign Minister Kenan Atakol of the self-declared Turkish republic of northern Cyprus told a news conference that it would complain to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Greek-Cypriot police stormed a house in a disputed area of the zone Saturday and shot dead a Turkish soldier who took refuge inside after killing a Greek Cypriot soldier and wounding another. The Turk was absent without leave from his post in the north and the Greek Cypriot police accused him of trying to rape a woman inside the house.

A week before U.N. troops killed a Turkish Cypriot and an Austrian U.N. soldier was wounded in a shooting in the zone at Pyla, the only mixed village of Greek and Turkish Cypriots.

The breakthrough north Cyprus republic, proclaimed in 1983 and recognised only by Turkey, has criticised the conduct of the eight-nation U.N. force in both cases.

Atakol accused Greek-Cypriot police of "cold-blooded murder," in killing 26-year-old Turkish Corporal Yusuf Sanli.

"If the U.N. force had acted properly, the incident could have been avoided," he said.

"The incident occurred in the U.N.-controlled, demilitarised buffer zone where Greek-Cypriot soldiers or police had no right to enter and carry out such an operation (to storm the house)."

U.N. spokesman Charles Gaulkin said the house lay in a disputed area of the zone in the village of Athienou, where both U.N. and Greek-Cypriot forces had positions.

He said the Cyprus government maintained that the area was under its jurisdiction and Greek-Cypriot police also had a post in the village.

"We understand that there was no entry of (Greek-Cypriot) National Guards into the buffer zone during the incident. Those who were present came from posts within the zone," Gaulkin

said.

"We made efforts to ensure that no (Greek-Cypriot) troops were brought into the zone. The question of the entry of the special (Greek-Cypriot) police units is another question and I would have to check on that."

The Cyprus government blamed Turkey for Saturday's shooting and described the behaviour of Turkish soldiers as provocative. It called for their withdrawal, saying they were trying to create tension.

Atakol said the shooting proved the need for Turkish troops on the island. "If the Turkish troops pull out of Cyprus, the Greek Cypriot side would attack and annihilate us in 24 hours," he said.

An opinion poll published in Ankara said many Turks favoured a partial troop withdrawal to help to resolve the Cyprus issue. Turkey sent its army into the north in 1974 after a brief coup in Nicosia inspired by the military junta then ruling Greece.

The poll of 600 Turks by a private group said 48.7 per cent favoured a troop reduction and 45.3 per cent were opposed.

Turkish Cypriots say there are 18,000 to 19,000 Turkish soldiers in Cyprus. U.N. sources put the number at about 29,000.

About 500 Turkish Cypriots marched to an Austrian U.N. camp near the port of Famagusta Sunday to protest at the killing of Turkish-Cypriot farmer Huseyin Kalfa eight days ago.

They burned an effigy of the Austrian commander of the U.N. force, Major General Guenther Greindl, and hung placards reading "Greindl murderer" and "U.N., we don't need you" on the camp's perimeter fence.

The north Cyprus republic accused Austrian troops of harassing and murdering Kalfa. The U.N. force said he was a known troublemaker who was shot in self defence.

Powerful U.S. warship makes debut in Gulf

ABOARD USS VINCENNES IN THE GULF (R) — The most powerful U.S. warship ever seen in the Gulf made its debut Saturday after passing safely through the Strait of Hormuz and Iran's "Silkway" envelope.

Tension ran fairly high among the 385-man crew of the USS Vincennes during its nighttime run up the narrow strait. It passed about six kilometres from a Panamanian-flag tanker, still on fire some 20 hours after being attacked by Iranian speedboats.

Salvage tugboats were pouring water on the ship, which was listing and appeared to have suffered severe fire damage to its superstructure.

The Vincennes crew also saw flames leaping high in the sky from a burning structure on the Iranian side of the strait. It was not certain whether it was Larak Island, an Iranian off-shore oil terminal devastated by Iraqi warplanes in a long-distance raid two weeks ago.

The darkened, fast-moving warship was challenged by one of the Omani navy boats that regularly patrol the straits to identify itself, and the Vincennes, observing the standard Gulf patrol replied: "An American warship, hull number 49."

Later, as it passed the Iran-held island of Abu Musa in the southern Gulf, the cruiser exchanged greetings with the missile frigate Jack Williams, one of five U.S. ships scheduled to depart the Gulf in a few more days.

The 9,400-tonne Vincennes is the first of the navy's 10 Aegis guided missile cruisers to be deployed in the Gulf itself. The powerful cruisers, named for the shield of Zeus, are built around a multi-faceted radar and weapons system designed to coordinate and carry out dozens of battle missions simultaneously.

Documents sought by the defence include material about U.S. intelligence capabilities in Iran, and "efforts to locate, reserve or obtain information on American citizens held hostage in Lebanon or elsewhere."

The defendants want to inspect highly classified message traffic between the United States and Israel — as well as intelligence intercepts — regarding the transfer of American weapons by Israel to Iran in 1985.

Secret court orders allowing electronic surveillance of Iranian officials who visited Washington in 1986 as part of the arms-for-hostages negotiations are also sought.

The defendants want details about other covert operations conducted by the U.S. government with the help of private citizens and companies.

North, a retired Marine lieutenant colonel, and his co-defendants are accused of conspiring to defraud the government by diverting profits from the U.S.-Iran arms sales to the Nicaraguan rebels.

The discovery motion signals that the defendants are trying to gather proof that many of their actions were approved by other officials in President Ronald Reagan's administration.

The defence wants notes of conversations with Reagan about the Iran-contra affair taken by Vice-President George Bush, Secretary of State George Shultz, former White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan, Meese and other top officials in the government.

It also seeks documents showing that other U.S. officials "provided funding or logistical or other support" for the contra during the ban on U.S. military aid imposed by Congress.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Reagan, Gorbachev open Moscow summit

(Continued from page 1)

hinted that some progress had been made, although he refused to give details.

He said the president emerged from the session with "sense of progress," but, in refusing to elaborate, he said he would let

the president "himself" describe any progress that was anticipated for the summit.

Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci, who appeared on a separate U.S. television interview from Moscow, said the first session went longer than anticipated.

Afterwards, Carlucci said,

Syrians patrol southern Beirut

(Continued from page 1)

our credibility," Fadlallah said in an interview published Sunday by the conservative Beirut daily Al Diyar.

Fadlallah has made several pledges in the past three years. Although Hizbollah has publicly denied involvement in the kidnappings, the group is widely believed to be an umbrella for underground factions that are bolder the hostages.

In Damascus, an informed Syrian source told the AP the hostages were not part of a Syrian-Iranian deal under which the Syrian army intervened to halt the Amal-Hizbollah bloodbath.

Christian Peace Conference pledges efforts

(Continued from page 1)

The delegation earlier met with Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Doudin and was briefed on the Palestine question and the ongoing uprising in the occupied territories. The delegation members were also briefed on Jordan's position vis-a-vis finding a solution to the Palestine question.

The delegation was received Saturday by Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat, who underlined the importance of joint Christian-Muslim efforts for peace in the Middle East. (The Jordan Times in an inadvertent error reported Sunday that the delegation was from the World Council of Churches).

CPC Vice-President Canon Wright told the Jordan Times that the delegation's meetings with

the ministers were highly useful because they provided the delegation members with useful and accurate information about what was going on in the occupied territories and about the history of the Palestine question.

Wright said that the movement strongly supports Jordan's call for holding an international peace conference and highly appreciates King Hussein's efforts to solve the Middle East question.

The first-band information that the delegation gained on the situation in the occupied territories was of great significance for the CPC, which will use it to relay a clear and accurate picture about the occupied territories, Wright said. The delegation also visited Baqaa camp.

Three of the four members of the delegation left for Larnaca Sunday while Wright leaves Monday for the occupied West Bank.

Jordan, Saudi fund discuss cooperation

(Continued from page 1)

some of them.

Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud also met with Saqr Sunday and discussed with him the SFD's contributions to Jordan's agricultural projects.

Saqr, who is accompanied by a two-member delegation, arrived in Amman Saturday on a four-day visit during which he will sign an agreement for providing a JD 3.8 million loan to Jordan to help it carry out the JD 15 million Wadi Al Ytem-Aqaba Highway.

Last year Jordan signed a JD 4.4 million loan with the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic and Social Development to help finance the construction of the 26-kilometre highway extending from Wadi Al Ytem to the coastal road in the vicinity of Aqaba. The scheme also included the construction of a six-kilometre road leading to the Aqaba container terminal, and four interconnections, in addition to flood protection works, bridges and drainage facilities.

Those two issues are among the main obstacles to a proposed strategic arms reduction treaty, which would slash superpower long-range nuclear arsenals by 30-50 per cent.

Velikobov, who advises Gorbachev on the U.S. strategic defence initiative (SDI), or "Star Wars," said the Americans rejected a proposal to discuss what types of tests could be permitted under the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, which restricts each side to a missile defence at one site.

6 Palestinians wounded

(Continued from page 1)

Rafah in the Gaza Strip, troops used rubber bullets and tear-gas to disperse a demonstration by students, Palestinians said.

Israeli officials said a hand grenade was thrown at the home of the Israeli-appointed Arab local council leader in Beit Fajar near Hebron, but the grenade did not explode.

Shopowners closed their stores in protest in Nablus, the West Bank's largest city.

The uprising leadership called Saturday for a three-day general strike next weekend to coincide with the return to the Middle East of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

Shultz plans to visit the region for the fourth time this year Friday, just after the U.S.-Soviet summit in Moscow.

During a sit-in at the Red Cross in Gaza City, 200 Palestinian activists submitted a letter urging the superpower leaders to convene a U.N.-sponsored Middle East peace conference with PLO participation.

The protesters called for Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

A report said meanwhile that the occupation authorities demanded the family of a Palestinian boy pay \$6,000 to cover the costs of evacuating him by helicopter for medical treatment. The boy died Friday.

A taxi was set ablaze in the West Bank city of Ramallah, meanwhile, and rocks were thrown at passing cars.

The protesters told AP photographer Martin Cleaver that the cab was set afire because its owner was accused of giving information to the Israeli occupation authorities.

In the West Bank, Samira Mustafa, a mother taking two teenage daughters to school, said parents were worried that Israeli soldiers were stationed near schools.

"It's quiet now. Why are the soldiers outside the schools?" she asked. "They want the boys and girls to throw stones at them."

At one school for boys, an Israeli army jeep was parked around the corner and four soldiers stood on the porch of a nearby house.

A young girl in a green-striped school uniform was asked if she thought reopening schools signalled quieter time. "I don't think so because even the uprising people want us to go back to class. The troubles are separate," she replied.

The poll published Sunday in Israeli newspapers reported 89 per cent of respondents felt certain of Israel's "continued existence."

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AMMAN JORDAN

Houston dismantles the boom years

HOUSTON, Texas (R) — When oil prices went through the roof in the late 1970s and early 1980s, Houston property developers built flats — and filled them up — at a dizzying pace.

People from all over the United States flooded the city to fill jobs created by upwardly bound oil companies. Streets were congested, unemployment was negligible and places to live were at a premium.

Now that oil — and, as a result, the Houston economy — has come back to earth, many of the city's flats are being torn down because there are no tenants to live in them.

"The boom is, in effect, being dismantled," said Patrick O'Connor, property analyst and editor of the monthly publication Houston Real Estate Trends.

While all types of Houston property suffer from overbuilt markets, flats are the first to face massive demolition.

According to O'Connor, the phenomenon began in 1986 and picked up steam last year. Now, troubled blocks of flats are being bulldozed at a rate of about 5,000 units a year, he said, because owners of half-empty complexes are finding it cheaper to get rid of them than keep them open.

"It's unbelievable, but in the nation's fourth largest city the imbalance between supply and demand is that bad," he said.

Occupancy rates have dropped from an astonishing 99.5 per cent in 1981 to an average of 75 per

cent, O'Connor said. In many complexes, only 30 to 35 per cent of the flats have tenants, he told Reuters in a recent interview.

Although it's hard to imagine now, there was a time when it was hard to find an apartment in Houston," he said.

The current surplus of flats is the result of severe overbuilding and population loss.

During the oil boom, developers were caught up in a tidal wave of optimism which engulfed Houston. Oil industry analysts were predicting oil prices could reach \$100 a barrel because demand seemed to be outracing a limited world supply of petroleum.

Those predictions led financial institutions to lead freely on property development projects that had customers waiting in line for space. Flats, not tenants, were in short supply.

From 1976 to 1985, the number of flats in the city more than doubled, from 202,000 to 410,000, O'Connor said.

But when oil prices started sinking in the 1980s, energy-related layoffs followed. According to the Houston Economic Development Council, the city has lost 200,000 jobs, — down to about 365,000, since 1982. When people could not find work, they

went elsewhere.

"There's just aren't as many people here as there were when times were good," said Ron Dokell, executive vice president of Olshan Demolishing Company, one of the few firms to benefit from the exodus.

Developers really got into trouble when, even as oil prices began to weaken, they continued to build, according to O'Connor.

"They kept going because they had big operations they had to keep busy," he also thought that their one little project wouldn't upset the market," he said.

Rents fall

Reality began sinking in as occupancy rates, and rents, fell. Top-quality flats that had been renting for around 55 cents a square foot (\$5 a square metre) now are available for 40 cents a square foot (\$3.60 a square metre), O'Connor said.

Today, a 750-square-foot (83 square metre) apartment with an array of modern conveniences can be had for \$300 a month or less, he said. To be profitable, such a unit should rent for about \$325 a month, he told Reuters.

Under the circumstances, landlords have found it difficult to stay afloat.

In the last two years, a third of the city's apartment buildings have been foreclosed on by lenders, O'Connor said.

After foreclosure, the chances for a block of flats to be bulldozed increase greatly. Lending

institutions which become the not-so-proud owners of the units are faced with either continuing operations at a loss or shutting down.

"If you leave a complex vacant, you have to pay a lot for armed guards and even if you have them, the apartments are likely to be vandalised," O'Connor said. "Plus, there's a lot of liability if someone is hurt. It has become difficult to get insurance for abandoned projects."

Many owners are choosing to tear down apartments and hold on to the empty land in hopes of a rebound in the local economy.

"It's the main business going right now for us as far as commercial work," said Olshan's Dokell. "It's about the only thing we're getting calls on."

So far, most of the demolished units actually are pre-boom buildings in declining neighbourhoods, he said. But because Houston had very few flats until the 1950s and 1960s, most of the demolished projects are 20 years old or less, he said.

O'Connor expects at least 24,000 units to be torn down before equilibrium returns to the market. If oil prices worsen or a national recession hits, he says the number could climb to 42,000.

O'Connor does not expect profitability to return to the local apartment market for five to seven years. It will take that long, he said, for the economy to produce enough jobs to fill a dwindling number of flats.

Investment in industrial city totals JD 70 million

AMMAN (Petra, J.T) — A total of JD 70 million in capital has been invested in the Sahab Industrial City (SIC) on the outskirts of Amman, according to an official at the Jordanian Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC).

The official said that the capital financed projects which now employ 2,500 workers and opened the way for increased operations by local transport companies.

The SIC comprises 76 newly created industrial businesses and old ones which were originally set up in other areas of Jordan, the official said.

He said that nearly 85 per cent of the total area of land and buildings built in the first phase has been occupied by the national companies and industrial concerns.

In addition to companies, he said, local commercial banks opened branches in the industrial city, providing credit for industry, commerce and housing operations.

Last September, the International Contracting and Investment Company of Jordan was awarded a contract from the

JIEC for carrying out work on the second phase of the SIC.

The firm will build the infrastructure which included roads, water and sewerage network, and electrical cables on 50 hectares of land.

It also will build 18,000 square metres of steel factory buildings of three types and set up a wastewater treatment plant to the "phase one" infrastructure.

The cost of the "phase two" infrastructure was estimated at JD 1.85 million and the total area of land allotted for the project is approximately 170 hectares.

According to the official, the total cost of the second phase of the SIC will be JD 7 million of which JD 1.2 million has been spent on design work and preparation, and JD 2 million on levelling and ground works at the site.

According to JIEC sources, the European Investment Bank provided 50 per cent of the cost of the project.

The European Community (EC) has set up a vocational training centre at the SIC at a cost of \$1.4 million.

Potash output, export rise

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Potash Company (APC) says that it produced 405,476 tonnes of potash in the first four months of 1988 against 375,101 tonnes in the same period of last year.

An APC statement said that a

total of 390,280 tonnes of potash were exported in the same period this year against 341,612 tonnes in the first four months of 1987, thus registering an increase of 14 per cent.

Yugoslav business dwindles

BELGRADE (R) — Business dwindled throughout Yugoslavia Sunday as people refused to buy following huge price rises announced by the government.

Yugoslavs avoided shops and restaurants, tightening their belts after the government launched an economic austerity programme by freeing most prices from controls and devaluing the dinar by 23.9 per cent.

The government raised petrol prices by 32 per cent, train fares 38 per cent, electricity 31 per cent, coal 30 per cent and postal services 28 per cent.

"Prices as an electric shock" screamed the headline to the Belgrade newspaper Borba.

Milan Stojic, director of the Federal Price Institute, was quoted in Sunday newspapers as saying the price increase would add at least 12 points in June to the country's 152 per cent inflation.

"Price rises are a terrible blow to all of us with small salaries or pensions," pensioer Milka Markovic told Politika newspaper.

She said she just could not make ends meet.

Politika said sales in some Bel-

grade stores tumbled 50 per cent Saturday. Bored staff stood idly by watching television for want of customers to serve.

Austerity was even hitting Belgrade's McDonald's hamburger firm, half empty Sunday although it set a world record for turnover in the first few weeks after it opened in March.

The austerity programme, drafted under guidance of Western creditors in return for fresh loans to pave the way for structural reforms, abolished controls on 60 per cent of prices.

Wage controls were introduced on May 15, triggering a wave of strikes.

Officials said 50 per cent of Yugoslav firms were expected to take wage cuts in May and June because their pay rises so far this year had exceeded the limits of the austerity programme.

Belgrade residents have noticed elderly scavengers growing in numbers in recent weeks, picking through dustbins for scraps of food and anything of value.

Beggars have also been coming in from the provinces.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

Activity on the Amman Financial Market for May 29, 1988.

	Number	Volume	Contracts
Regular market:	351358	JD 209477	316
Top three companies:			
National Financial Investments	13250	JD 23850	7
Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipment	167875	JD 31705	74
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	13501	JD 23581	35
Parallel market:	65900	JD 30285	—
Development bonds:	68	JD 731	—
Treasury bills & bonds:	—	—	—
Other debentures:	—	—	—

Finance and Commodities Report

By Fouad Batshon

AMMAN — The American dollar climbed to new highs against all major European currencies and the Jordanian dinar.

Speculators bought dollars in heavy volumes before the trade figure was released by the Commerce Department Tuesday. The figure was extremely better than expected. The dollar jumped three full points on the German mark, and four full points on the Swiss franc.

In the local market, the dollar was still well bid, but the demand was less. Local banks and financial companies sold dollars for JD at 0.363 fils.

The most disappointing currency in my opinion is the British pound. Sterling is still too high against other European currencies, such as the German mark and Swiss franc. Sterling is 3.18 against the German mark and 2.66 against Swiss franc. Also the sterling is 1.86 against the American dollar.

These levels cannot be sustained for the near future. This was said by Nigel Lawson the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Also Bank of England has intervened in the market to sell sterling against dollar and marks whenever speculators buy sterling against the mark and the dollar.

The most important fact is that the British economy is not better in numbers than the German or the American economy but the only one basic reason that made speculators buy pounds against marks or Swiss franc was the difference in interest rates. Now when the interest was lowered in England on the pound and a rumour spread in the market that the Bundesbank could raise the interest rate on the German mark.

I think that there is no reason for the pound to move higher any more. Charts show that pound is a very good sell at existing levels i.e. 1.86 on the dollar and 3.18 on the mark.

Target is 1.78 on the dollar and 3.02 on the mark.

Following are some gold prices and Arab currency rates in Amman during the last trading week:

Gold (per gramme, 21 carats)	— JD 4.25
Gold (per gramme, 18 carats)	— JD 3.85
L.L. / JD 1058-1128	
S.L. / JD 134-150	
Iraqi dinar / JD, 0.165 / 0.170	
Egyptian pound / JD, 0.135 / 0.145.	—

Over 1,200 Western firms conduct business in S. Africa

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — "cheap labour is what brings them to South Africa, not a desire to restore social justice."

Following Britain, countries with the most companies still in South Africa were West Germany with 333, the United States with 164, Japan with 103, France with 90 and Switzerland with 54.

Others included the Netherlands with 29, Austria with 28, Australia with 19, Canada and Belgium with 18 each, Sweden and Denmark with 10 each, Italy with seven, Finland and Ireland with two each, and Spain, Norway, Portugal and Greece with one each.

The confederation said its list made by investors in South Africa that their presence could be an instrument for reform, saying

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Najibullah convenes 1st parliament in 15 years

KABUL (Agencies) — President Najibullah Sunday convened Afghanistan's first parliament in 15 years with a call for armed groups to lay down their arms immediately and take legislative seats held open for them.

He said he would not concede any territory to the Mujahedeen fighters, who have been fighting the Moscow-backed Afghan government and Soviet troops for nearly a decade.

In a 20-minute speech interrupted seven times by applause from members of the bicameral parliament, Najibullah continued his efforts to portray himself as no longer the leader of a one-party state.

His People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) holds only a quarter of the currently occupied 184 seats in the house of representatives, but virtually all the rest are held by groups or individuals with ties to Najibullah's administration, according to foreign observers.

Two former Mujahedeen leaders hold what the government calls "opposition" seats.

The Mujahedeen, whose arms supplies include the United States, have not halted their battle against Afghan and Soviet troops despite the start of Soviet withdrawal two weeks ago.

Under an agreement signed in Geneva in April, the Soviet Union pledged to withdraw all of its estimated 115,000 soldiers from Afghanistan by Feb. 15, 1989.

Najibullah said the signing of the Geneva accord "opened new doors for peace in Afghanistan" but he said it "does not mean overnight peace."

The parliament, which consists of the house of representatives and a 158-member senate, replaces the Revolutionary Council as Afghanistan's law-making body.

The house of representatives is to have 234 seats, but there are 50 vacancies — the seats Najibullah said have been left open for the Mujahedeen if they stop fighting. The vacancies are for electoral districts either controlled by the fighters or that have been the scene of heavy fighting.

"We are ready to listen to the views of the opposition," Najibullah said, speaking in the Pushtu language. "We are ready to receive them in Kabul." A simultaneous translation was provided in English for diplomats and journalists.

The Mujahedeen, whose headquarters are in neighbouring Pakistan, have vowed to continue fighting as long as Najibullah, a former secret police commander, remains in power.

The parliament was convened

in the ornately columned, gilt-ceilinged Star Palace in the foreign ministry compound. The new legislators, some in turbans and robes, others in Western attire, were brought to the compound in buses guarded by soldiers.

Inside the palace, no shooting was heard during the opening session, but the roar of artillery is heard nearly every day in the capital, which sprawls on a plain at the bases of several hills.

Rocket attacks by the guerrillas have grown more frequent since Soviet troops started withdrawing May 15. The Kabul Times reported that five people were killed in rocket attacks Friday night.

The parliament session opened with a black-bearded clergyman intoning verses from the Koran, and Najibullah prefaced his speech with "in the name of Allah, the Merciful and Almighty."

The Afghan president spoke of his desire for a "neutral and non-aligned nation," but he also spoke of continued friendship with the Soviet Union. He said his government wanted a "mixed economy and foreign investment so that all Afghans in their shops can carry out their work and be sure of their future."

Najibullah formally proposed Mohammad Hassan Sharq as prime minister. His name had already been announced and his election by parliament is expected to be a formality.

Parliamentary elections that



Najibullah

took place after a 1973 coup ousted King Zahir Shah were the last in Afghanistan before last month's voting, and like them, were widely disputed. Parliament has not met since 1973.

The former prime minister, Sultan Ali Keshmand, was consoling with a decoration, the Sun of Freedom, and was made one of the nine secretaries of the PDPA.

Armenians rally for activist's freedom

MOSCOW (AP) — Thousands of Armenians rallied in their southern capital Saturday, demanding freedom for a jailed nationalist leader and calling for a holiday marking formation of their republic, a Soviet dissident said.

Alexander Ogorodnikov, a Russian Orthodox activist in Moscow, said the crowd in Yerevan, near the Turkish border, sang patriotic songs and held up portraits of Armenian national heroes.

They also held pictures of Paruyr Ayrikyan, a nationalist arrested in March and still under confinement.

Police did not interfere in the two-hour demonstration though the crowd prevented government officials from speaking to the rally through megaphones, the activist said without elaborating.

Ayrikyan emerged as a primary spokesman for activists shortly after Armenians began demonstrating Feb. 13 for annexation of Nagorno-Karabakh from neighbouring Azerbaijan, a Soviet republic on the Caspian Sea that borders Iran.

Ogorodnikov said Saturday's protest drew an estimated 50,000 people and occurred on the same square outside Yerevan's Opera House where massive protests over the Nagorno-Karabakh issue have been held.

Portraits of Ayrikyan and the Armenian national flag were placed on the opera house, said Ogorodnikov, who spent nearly nine years in jail for Christian activism.

In addition to demanding the release of Ayrikyan, the demonstrators called on the government to celebrate the May 28, 1918, formation of the Armenian republic with a holiday. The Armenian republic later was incorporated into the Soviet Union.

The protesters sent telegrams to the Soviet parliaments, known as Supreme Soviets, in Moscow and Armenia outlining their demands, Ogorodnikov said.

Ayrikyan is being held in Armenia on a charge of defamation or spreading false information discrediting the Soviet Union.

U.N. secures Ethiopian promise over relief efforts

ADDIS ABABA (AP) — Ethiopia has promised the United Nations it will be allowed to expand its role in the war-torn and drought-stricken north where civil war has crippled relief efforts, U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Sunday.

Perez de Cuellar met with President Mengistu Haile Mariam Friday and said their talks were "most useful and encouraging" and focused on ways to "ensure the continued flow of humanitarian supplies to the affected population."

He did not elaborate, but the United Nations' chief representative in Ethiopia, Michael Priestley, later told reporters Ethiopia had promised "in principle" to allow more U.N. personnel in the north and to permit them to move outside the government-held towns.

"Depending, of course, on the security situation," he said.

Ethiopia, citing security risks, April 6 expelled foreign aid workers from the northern provinces of Eritrea and Tigre, where martial law was declared following rebel offensives in March that forced the government to withdraw to major towns.

Relief agencies now are allowed to operate only in the shrunken areas still under government control, leaving about two-thirds of the 3.2 million drought victims beyond reach of emergency aid, say relief officials and diplomats.

The United Nations in late April was granted permission to return four people coordinating the airlift and trucking operation to the Eritrean capital of Asmara.

And the European Economic Community (EEC), a major food donor, said Saturday it had been granted permission to send representatives periodically to the north to monitor the relief operation.

Aquino: Muslims must make first move for peace

MANILA (R) — President Corason Aquino said Sunday Muslim rebels should make the first move if they wanted new peace talks to solve the separatist problem in the southern Philippines.

"If they wish to talk again with the government the initiative will have to come from them," Aquino said in a taped radio call-in programme to be broadcast later Sunday. A transcript was released by Aquino's press office. Negotiations between the government and the rebel Moro National Liberation Front (MNL) broke down in June last year over the degree of autonomy

to be given Muslims in this mainly Christian country.

More than 50,000 people were killed in the 1970s at the height of fighting between government forces and Muslim separatists on Mindanao island, where most of the country's seven million Muslims live. A ceasefire has been in effect in the area for the past two years.

On Friday, Aquino told visiting Pakistani Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo she hoped Pakistan would use its "moderating influence" among Muslim states to help end the Mindanao problem.

Italian killing exposes bizarre religious sect

ROME (R) — A macabre killing in southern Italy has alerted authorities to a bizarre religious sect they believe may be tied to kidnapping, bank robbery and the mafia.

Police stumbled on the sect, the group of the Rosary, last Thursday when a man with gunshot wounds led them to a farmhouse in the Calabrian mountain village on San Pietro in Amantea where he said he had been "punished for losing the faith."

Inside, they found 35 people

linked in a human chain around a table praying to pictures of the Madonna and the sect's late founder, Antonio Naccarato. Another room, its metal door welded shut, held the rigid corpse of a sect member, Pietro Latella.

Police said Latella, 27, had been shot 12 times with his hands and legs tied behind his neck in a ritualistic position associated with mafia killings of perceived traitors. A cat had also been slaughtered.

Assassination bid kills 6 in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (AP) — Four suspected Sinhalese extremists using automatic rifles shot six people to death, including a 10-year-old girl, in a raid on the home of a Sri Lankan politician, a police official said Sunday.

The politician, K.W.R. Dharma-sena, his wife and three supporters were injured in the apparent assassination attempt late Saturday night, said the official, whose name cannot be used under briefing rules.

The dead included Dharma-sena's 10-year-old daughter and his father, he said.

The attack occurred in the town of Homagama, which is 20 kilometres southeast of Colombo.

It was the latest shooting in a

series blamed on the Peoples Liberation Front, an underground group of nationalist Sinhalese opposed to an Indian-brokered peace accord signed last July.

The group contends that the pact, which is aimed at ending a five-year insurgency by the island's Tamils, makes too many concessions to the ethnic minority. The front has threatened to kill anyone who supports the agreement.

The pact called for the Tamils to lay down their arms in exchange for the creation of district councils, which are designed to give Sri Lankans more say in local government affairs.

Dharma-sena is a candidate from the ruling United National

Nicaragua peace talks end; truce extended

MANAGUA (R) — The Sandinista government and U.S.-backed Nicaraguan rebels decided to meet again next week after failing to agree to end their war at a third round of peace talks in Managua which broke up late Saturday.

The rebels said they would maintain a two-month ceasefire which was originally due to expire Tuesday until the next round of talks here on June 7-9.

Nicaraguan Defence Minister Humberto Ortega said the government would stick to a 30-day extension of the truce it declared earlier this week to give more chances for peace.

He angrily accused contra military leader Enrique Bermudez of being under U.S. orders to block progress at the talks and said the rebels had refused even to sign a joint declaration announcing the new meeting.

"Among the mercenary ranks Bermudez is predominant, the bellicose sector is predominant," Ortega told a news conference. "If it was not for Bermudez, we would almost have signed a peace agreement."

He predicted the contra leadership would disintegrate if Bermudez continued to dominate, and that this could lead to a renewal of fighting that has already claimed 50,000 lives.

Rebel political leader Alfredo Cesar said "there were some advances but there was not enough time to reach accords."

The government said that four points were agreed over technical aspects of a ceasefire, bringing the number approved in an overall peace document to 20 out of 32.

This week's talks were the third in Managua and the first attended by Bermudez.

Ortega said the contras had not shown interest in a new government offer Saturday to allow the rebels to take part in talks on broad democratic and institutional reforms.

"The contra and the American administration have accused the government of being anti-democratic, of being totalitarian... but they had no interest in discussing the proposal in depth," Ortega said.

'With or without?' newscaster asks

GREEN BAY, WISCONSIN (AP) — Television weather forecaster Tom Mahoney decided that public opinion would determine whether he should or should not wear his toupee on the air. More than 2,900 of those who participated in the call-in poll by station WFRV said they thought meteorologist Mahoney should remove the toupee he had worn on the air for six years, while more than 2,800 said he should leave it on. Mahoney told viewers he thought he looked better with the toupee, but felt better without it. To facilitate the viewers' decision, he showed a picture of himself both with and without the toupee. With the polls results in, he removed the toupee. News director Gerry Jensen said it will be auctioned off to benefit a charity.

Fergie's father accused of 'bad behaviour'

LONDON (AP) — Major Ronald Fergusson, the Dutchess of York's father, narrowly escaped an attempt to oust him from polo's ruling body over newspaper allegations that he frequented prostitutes at a London massage parlor, the polo organisation said Saturday.

The Hurlingham Polo Association, which governs the sport throughout the British Commonwealth, voted 7 to 6 against a resolution under which the 56-year-old major "should be invited to tender his resignation voluntarily." Brigadier Peter Thwaites, chairman of the Stewards Committee, told the AP. Thwaites said he was among those pressing for Fergusson's resignation from his post as one of the association's stewards.

"I'm not for a moment saying we are all whiter than white. But you can't really have a chap sitting in judgment over somebody else who has, by his own confession, behaved badly," Thwaites was quoted as saying. The Sunday People, a mass-circulation tabloid, published a photo on May 8 of Fergusson leaving the Wigmore Club, a London massage parlor. It quoted prostitutes there as saying he was "one of their most valued regular customers."

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Robbed at 3,500 metres

DOGUBEYAZIT, Turkey (R) — Kurdish guerrillas ambushed a group of European climbers on Mount Ararat and robbed them at a height of 3,500 metres police reported Saturday. They said troops were hunting the guerrillas after Thursday's hold-up, the first such robbery since 1985 on the slopes of the 5,123-metre mountain, reputed resting place of Noah's Ark. A police officer told Reuters by telephone from Dogubeyazit, 1,200 kilometres east of Ankara, that the thieves were probably from the outlawed Kurdish Workers Party (PKK). "Suddenly an armed band with pistols and grenades on their hand-dollers surrounded us... they forced us to lie down and took our stuff," Anatolian News Agency quoted climber Rudolf Richter as saying.

Piano in tune with dead man's wish

SANTA ROSA, California (R) — A Mozart concerto it wasn't, but when a 135 kilogrammes piano hit the ground with a twangy thud after being dropped from a helicopter on Saturday, it was sweet music for friends of John Cameron Young. Young, a wealthy and eccentric sailor, pilot and businessman who lived in an affluent suburb of San Francisco, California, died three years ago aged 44 leaving his greatest wish unfulfilled — to hear the sound of a piano hitting the ground from a great height. In his will he specified that \$15,000 from his \$800,000 estate should go toward a party for his friends. What better way to kick off the memorial bash, his buddies decided, than to posthumously enact Young's fantasy. "It seemed like a good way to spend his money," said one friend, Len Nordeman of San Francisco. About 300 people cheered as a helicopter lifted an old English upright piano 65 metres above a vacant lot in Santa Rosa, then let it go.

Experts fault American strategy in Panama talks

WASHINGTON (AP) — Reagan administration's failed effort to induce Panamanian leader Manuel Antonio Noriega to surrender power was riddled with blunders, according to a number of independent experts.

But while many of the experts found fault with the way the administration handled the negotiations, they had few ideas on what the United States can do

now to achieve its goals of an apolitical military and restoring constitutional rule in Panama. "We're in for the long haul," said Eva Loser of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies.

To some experts, the United States looked both foolish and weak after Noriega refused last Wednesday to sign on to a U.S.-brokered deal that called for his

resignation in August and temporary departure from Panama while an election process took place.

"I think that what's happened is we've really seen the limits of U.S. intervention," said Douglas Bandow of the Cato Institute. "And despite the fact that we're a superpower, we would have trouble killing a fly."

Assistant Secretary of State Elliott Abrams defended the negotiations in a telephone interview, saying, "people critical of the negotiations criticised us when we were not negotiating. That's called politics."

James Hackett, an associate at the Heritage Foundation, said that the administration's first mistake was in bringing drug smuggling indictments last February against Noriega.

"You don't go around indicting foreign presidents or rulers," said Hackett, a former foreign service officer who once served in Panama.

Ambler Moss, a former ambassador to Panama, agreed with Loser that the United States should have joined with other Latin American countries in the attempt to negotiate a settlement.

Bangladesh floods kill 5; thousands displaced

DHAKA (AP) — As many as half a million people have been driven from their homes and at least five killed by flooding in Bangladesh's northeastern districts, government officials and news reports said Sunday.

As yet, the flooding has not approached the level of last spring's, the worst in 70 years, in which more than one-quarter of the nation's 105 million people were forced to flee and more than 1,000 were killed.

This year, heavy rains and the annual snow melt from the Himalaya Mountains have sent the Surma and Kushiara rivers in the

northeastern districts of Sylhet and Sunamganj over their banks, the report said.

The rivers are part of the Brahmaputra system, which also flows through India. Flooding along the Brahmaputra has taken the lives of at least 26 people in the northeastern Indian state of Assam, Indian news agencies reported Saturday.

Government officials in Sylhet, 160 kilometres northeast of Dhaka, said Sunday that three people died Saturday when their house was washed away and two others were drowned.

Lidiya Gromyko to share limelight with Nancy Reagan

By Susan Cornwell
Reuters

MOSCOW — The battle of the superpower first ladies took a new turn Tuesday as summit planners disclosed that Nancy Reagan's hostess to Leningrad will not be elegant Raisa Gorbachev but plump and matronly Lidiya Gromyko.

Press aides to Mrs. Reagan said the wife of Soviet President Andrei Gromyko would accompany her on a day trip to Leningrad next Tuesday as President Reagan continues his meetings in Moscow with Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Mrs. Gromyko is thought to be close to the age of her 78-year-old husband. "I don't think Nancy will have any problem outstaging her," said the wife of a Moscow-based diplomat. "She's rather short and slightly on the heavy side. I wouldn't call her one of the best-dressed women in Moscow."

The aides said they did not know why Soviet authorities proposed Mrs. Gromyko and not Mrs. Gorbachev for the Leningrad outing, which will be Nancy's only excursion outside of Moscow during the five-day summit.

But they rejected suggestions that Raisa appeared to be snubbing Nancy. Since the two women met at the first superpower summit in Geneva in 1985, there have been rumours that they do not get along.

"When Raisa was in Washington during the last summit, she had her own schedule and she went where she wanted to go, and I think it's going to be the same here for Nancy," one aide to Mrs. Reagan told Reuters.

"I don't understand the feeling that they have to be constant companions," she said. Another U.S. official pointed out that the pairing off with Mrs. Gromyko was correct from the standpoint of protocol.

"After all, she is the wife of the head of the Soviet government," he said.

Nancy's schedule during the May 29-June 2 summit includes two outings in Moscow with Raisa, planners say.

That is one more get-together than the two women had at the last summit in Washington last December. There the fact that they only met once without their husbands fuelled rumours that Nancy was shunning Raisa.

The first ladies will also accompany their husbands to dinners in Moscow Monday and Tuesday, and to the Bolshoi Ballet Wednesday.

During their trip to Leningrad, Mrs. Reagan and Mrs. Gromyko will tour the hermitage, the former palace of the Czars that is now a museum, and visit a memorial to the defenders of the city in World War II.

Unlike Raisa, whose chic

appearance and flair for fashion inspired French designer Pierre Cardin to call her "one of the most elegant women in the world," Mrs. Gromyko is homely and friendly.

But communication between the two president's wives could pose a problem. Mrs. Gromyko takes an interpreter with her to diplomatic functions.

"She doesn't seem to speak any English," said one woman, who has met her. "And judging from her reactions, I think she might be a little bit deaf."

Mrs. Gromyko is rarely seen in Moscow, but the Soviet president's recently-released memoirs revealed that she had frequently travelled abroad with her husband when he was Soviet foreign minister.

Nancy's first get-together with Raisa will be Sunday, the day the Reagans arrive in Moscow. The two women are to take a walking tour of the Kremlin while their husbands hold their first meeting.

On Wednesday, Nancy and Raisa will tour the Tretyakov Gallery, which displays exclusively Russian art from early religious works of the 10th century until the present day.

Soviet sources said Nancy and Raisa had also been invited to attend a rock concert organised by the TASS news agency Sunday evening at the Luzhniki sports place. But Nancy's aides said there were no plans for her to attend.

Mortar hits Ulster police base

COOKSTOWN, Northern Ireland (R) — Several civilians and soldiers were slightly injured Saturday in a mortar attack on an Ulster Defence Regiment (UDR) Base in Tyrone county, police said. A spokesman said they were taken to hospital suffering from minor injuries and shock after the base in Cookstown, west of Belfast, came under fire for the second time this week. The UDR is a locally-recruited, mainly-protestant unit of British forces in Northern Ireland. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack, similar to past assaults mounted by the guerrilla group, Irish Republican Army (IRA), fighting to end British rule in Northern Ireland. The area was sealed off while bomb disposal experts searched for unexploded devices. Fifty families were evacuated in a mortar attack on the base Tuesday, but there were no reports of casualties.

Pope names 25 new cardinals

VATICAN CITY (Agencies) — Pope John Paul II named 25 new cardinals Sunday, including the Archbishops of Detroit and Washington D.C. in the United States, Vienna and Hong Kong, and a prelate from Lithuania, the Roman Catholic stronghold of the Soviet Union. The most significant appointment was of Bishop Vincentas Sladkevicius, apostolic administrator for the Diocese of Kaistadorys in Soviet Lithuania. Sladkevicius, 67, will become only the second resident Roman Catholic cardinal in the Soviet Union and its first cardinal elector. The appointments bring membership to the college of cardinals to 161, of whom 120 are under the age of 80 and eligible to vote to elect a new Pope. Pope Paul VI had ruled that only cardinals under 80 could participate in a conclave and he also limited their number to 120.

BBC destroys tower after 2 killed

LONDON (R) — The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) said Sunday it was destroying a cooling tower on the roof of its London headquarters after an outbreak of Legionnaires' disease killed two employees. About 80 people are believed to have been infected in or around BBC broadcasting house. A BBC spokesman said the wet cooling tower would be replaced by a "forced air" system which could not harbour bacteria of the disease. The

disease, a form of pneumonia, takes its name from an outbreak which killed 29 people at a meeting in Philadelphia 12 years ago of the American Legion U.S. War Veterans' Group.

U.S. reportedly plans secret rocket

NEW YORK (R) — The U.S. Defence Department plans to build an air-launched rocket to carry military and spy satellites into space, possibly, without being detected by the Soviet Union, the New York Times said Sunday. The newspaper, quoting government and space industry officials, said the three-stage, winged rocket would be launched from a B-52 bomber about 11 kilometres above earth and carry payloads of up to 275 kilos into orbit on short notice. The military wants to test the rocket for an experimental programme involving light-weight satellites and launchers for a variety of military uses, including spy and communication satellites, the newspaper said. It said military planners had described the air-launched rocket system as inexpensive and less vulnerable to attack than ground-based systems. It could also be from remote areas, far from Soviet detection systems trained on the east and west coasts of the United States. Under a decade-old agreement, countries must notify the United Nations of all payloads they blast into space.

Thais pressure Hanoi over refugees

CHIA-AM, Thailand (AP) — Thailand called Saturday for international pressure on Hanoi to help ease the Vietnamese refugee problem and for the repatriation of Vietnamese who are fleeing their country. Participants at a conference on Vietnamese "boat people" also called for more resettlement of refugees by third countries and an expanded orderly departure programme from Vietnam to alleviate what they said was the "gravest Indochinese refugee crisis since 1979." Pressure must be exerted by all concerned on Vietnam to recognise the humanitarian consequences of the (refugee) outflow and the negative image created for Vietnam, a senior Thai foreign ministry official, Pracha Guna-Kasem, said at the conclusion of the four-day meeting. The conference, sponsored by the Ford Foundation, brought together officials from the six Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Hong Kong, as well as the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees and observers from Japan, Sweden, the United States, Australia and New Zealand.

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